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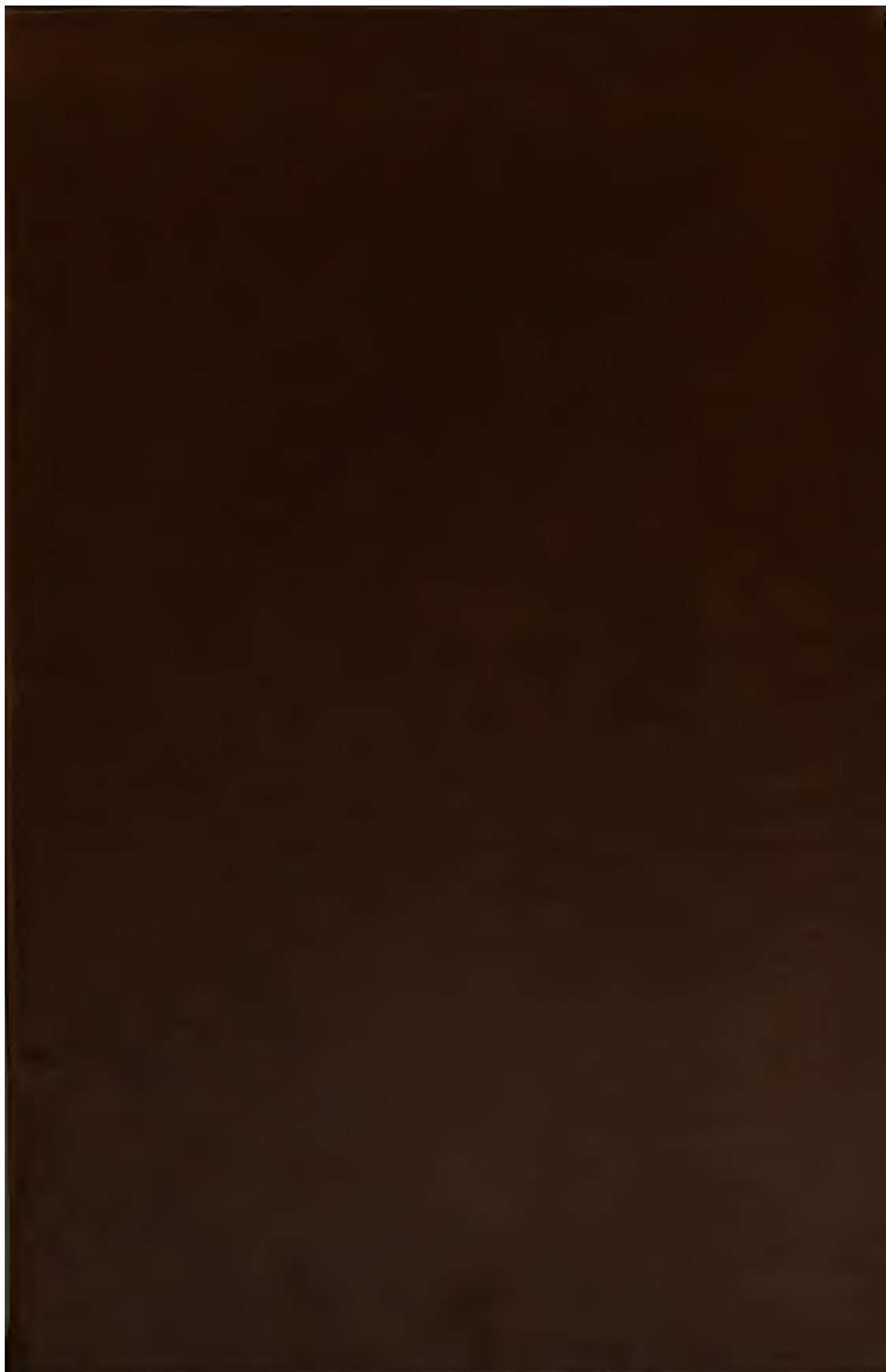
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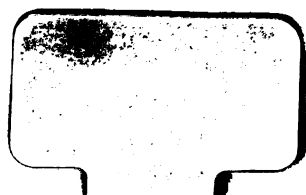
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**AN ACCOUNT**  
**OF THE**  
**CONTESTED ELECTION**  
**IN THE**  
**COUNTY OF FIFE,**  
**1847.**

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ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF FIFE ELECTION—1847.

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At the request of several parties who took a deep interest in the late contested Election for the representation of the County of Fife, the following *resumé* of the principal events connected with the Election has been compiled. It was deemed not only useful and interesting at the present moment to present these in a shape more accessible than the pages of a newspaper; but it was hoped that, during some future contest also, the documents here presented might afford valuable suggestions to liberal and enlightened Electors. The late Election for the County of Fife was the keenest and the narrowest run of any contest that ever took place here. Although Mr Fergus did not carry his Election by so large a majority as his friends, the Liberal party, had calculated on, still it must not be supposed for a moment that Conservatism is gaining strength amongst us. It was believed by the friends of Mr Fergus that he would be returned by a majority of from 300 to 400, while he carried his election only by a majority of 66 over Mr Balfour, who came later into the field. Although Mr Balfour, in this contest, had the support of the Conservatives, and may, moreover, have had some of the old leaven of Conservatism still clinging about him, it cannot be denied that it was his avowal of Liberal principles that secured him so respectable a position at the poll. Many of the Electors judged of the comparative merits of the two



candidates by the nature of the addresses they set forth ; and, taking these aspirants for Parliamentary honours at their word, believed that all the good things promised by these honourable gentlemen would be fully realised. Another party, composing the majority of the Electors, and the more shrewd portion of them, giving all due credence to the good faith in which both the addresses had been framed, still looked a little further into the merits of the two Candidates. Betwixt the two, it was no difficult matter for them to choose. Sudden conversions in politics, as in religion, are always to be regarded with suspicion and distrust ; and until the young convert can shew some evidence of the sincerity of his change of mind—some first fruits of his repentance—he cannot expect to be placed on the same footing, and enjoy the same implicit confidence, as the man who has never required to change his principles. It was in positions precisely of this nature that Mr Fergus and Mr Balfour presented themselves in soliciting the suffrages of the Electors of the County of Fife, and the result was what might easily have been anticipated.

But there is something in the sudden changes of political opinions beyond the mere suspicion of their *sincerity*. In almost all such changes, it is easy to discover a want of political forethought and sagacity. If we find a man opposing, for instance, by all the means in his power, every attempt to abolish restrictions on trade, and then turning suddenly round, and telling us that he perceives at last that he has been all along mistaken, and that, after all, restrictions on trade, which he had so fondly cherished, are ruinous, we may give such a man all credit for honesty, but certainly not for political penetration. It is the early appreciation of the principles we speak of, and the unflinching advocacy of them, under the most difficult circumstances, that places Richard Cobden in this respect superior to Sir Robert Peel. It is to the man who entered the arena early, and fought the battle of Liberalism during the hottest of the contest, that we must do homage, and not to him who

merely tosses up his cap, and joins the huzzas of victory "when the battle is fought and won." In short, the raw recruit must not be allowed to take the honourable position of the tried veteran.

It must not be supposed that, in making these remarks we altogether undervalue the circumstance of great accessions having been of late years made to the ranks of the Liberal party by the desertion of those who found Conservatism untenable ground. We rejoice to see any set of men, even at a late hour, coming to "a right mind" on those great political principles which are so deeply interwoven with the best interests of the country, and which are calculated to promote the prosperity and happiness of the great body of the community. We trust that the advancement and spread of these principles may continue to increase; and that every aristocrat in the land may learn that, if he would aspire to take an honourable and successful position in the political movements of his country, the measures he must pursue must ever be founded on a regard to the advancement and amelioration of the people. It is impossible to glance at the addresses and speeches made throughout the country, to the various constituencies during the late General Election, without at once being convinced that the general tone of these gave strong indications that we were moving in the right direction, and that liberal and enlightened opinions were gaining such a footing as will eventually put to defiance all opposition. Where Conservatism, during the contest we allude to, was not altogether hiding its head, it appeared so trimmed up to suit the tone of the prevailing opinions of the day, that if it looked not like "an old friend with a new face," it certainly appeared like an old foe wearing a more tolerable aspect.

Previous to any move being made in the Election we speak of, various conjectures were formed as to the course the ex-member for the County would steer. It was said by some that the state of his health was such that he

would meet the Electors, and resign the honourable position in which they had placed him. Common courtesy, indeed, demanded that he should give them some word at parting, but "he died and made no sign," unless we may except a memorandum of a very singular character which he privately circulated among some of the Electors. This famous document, which was put forth shortly after Mr Fergus and Mr Balfour had entered the field, we here subjoin:—

"MEMO. CIRCULAR:

"Captain Wemyss will not stand unless by requisition, in consistency with the way he was brought forward in 1841.

"Neither Mr Fergus nor Mr Balfour gave Captain Wemyss notice they were going to take this step, *after* they had arranged with their respective parties so to do:

"Mr Balfour gave Captain Wemyss notice after he had given his public notice in Kirkaldy.

"Captain Wemyss will never retire. If his former supporters and requisitionists retire him, the contract is broken on their part; and not on Captain Wemyss's.

"Capt. Wemyss would have liked to have seen the Hon. John Dundas or Lord Melgund his successor; but of the two candidates now in the field, Captain Wemyss prefers Mr Balfour; and he hopes that, whatever his old friends may do by him, they will not support Mr Fergus.

"JAMES ERSKINE WEMYSS.

"Wemyss Castle, July 26, 1847."

The following intimation, in reference to a Requisition which it was proposed should be got up in favour of Mr Fergus, sounded the first "note of preparation" for the coming contest:—

COUNTY REPRESENTATION.

A COMMITTEE of Farmers and others has been formed here to promote a Requisition in this District to Mr Fergus, to offer himself as a Candidate for the Representation of the County at the approaching Election. A

Deputation from this Committee waited on Mr Fergus yesterday, to ascertain his views on the subject. The substance of what passed at that interview may be gathered from the following note, afterwards addressed by Mr Fergus to the Chairman of the Committee.

Kirkaldy, 6th July 1847.

Kirkaldy, Monday, 5th July 1847.

DEAR SIR,

I trouble you with this note, because I am very anxious there should be no chance of misapprehension in what passed when you were so good as call here to-day.

I have no wish myself again to enter Parliament, and have many interests which would lead me away from it. Of my own motion, therefore, I never should address the constituency of Fife, or any other. If, however, it is a general wish of the Liberal Electors that I should offer myself, I shall be ready to do so, if that wish is expressed to me in such a requisition as would make me sure of support from a large proportion of their number. If there is any one else of the same political opinions as myself more likely, or equally likely, to secure the votes of a majority of the electors; I should be quite as ready and willing to promote a requisition to him as to receive one myself.

I cannot help feeling that it is like presumption in me to take such ground in such a matter, but I feel also that it is quite necessary to be explicit, and to reserve to myself the most perfect freedom to act so as I may judge best hereafter.

I have only to add the great gratification I have received from the good opinion of me that has been indicated by yourself and the other gentlemen who have acted with you, and the recollection of which I shall gratefully retain, whatever course matters may take in reference to the County Representation.—I am, &c.,

(Signed)

JOHN FERGUS.

Robert Wilson, Esq., Glassment.

The required Requisition was soon got up, and received so large a number of signatures as must have

proved very flattering to Mr Fergus, and entitled him to entertain the most sanguine hopes of success. We subjoin the document, with the goodly array of names appended to it :—

TO JOHN FERGUS, ESQ. OF STRATHORE.

SIR,

WE, Electors of the County of Fife, respectfully request that you will allow yourself to be put in nomination, as Representative of the County, at next Election.

As matters of great importance are likely for some time to occupy the attention of Parliament, we are desirous that our interests should be properly attended to, more especially as regards questions relating to Freedom of Trade, and the Abolition of the Game Laws.—We are, &c.,

Henry Fergus, farmer, Sauchenbush  
R. Hutchison, farmer, Forresterton  
Walter Veitch, farmer, Grange  
William Inglis, Templehall  
Alex. McLean, farmer, Skeddoway  
John Mitchell, farmer, Redwells  
James Aitken, farmer, Newton of Markinch  
D. Campbell, farmer, Kirkforthar  
John Strachan, farmer, Coltown  
James Landale, farmer, Lathrisk  
John Beveridge, Kinneston  
Alex. Gibb, farmer, Auchmuty  
John Russell, farmer, Westertown  
G. Auchmuty, farmer, Tullybreck  
George Lewis, farmer, Boglilly  
John Kinninmonth, Orrs Mill  
Robert Kay, farmer, Balbirnie Mill  
George Gibb, farmer, Pitteuchar  
J. Cockburn, farmer, Clunie Mains  
John Kirk, farmer, Finglassie  
William Dick, farmer, Collydean  
Robert Dowie, Balgonie  
G. Kininmont, farmer, Colquhally  
John Galloway, farmer, Stenton  
Andrew Landale, Woodbank  
David Hardie, farmer, Strathore  
John Wilson, farmer, Blacketyside  
James Fernie, Powgold Mill  
George Wilson, Haugh Mill  
David Landale, Lochty Bleachfield  
John Crichton, Balfour  
David Imrie, Haugh Mill  
James McLean, Nether Stenton  
Geo. Hardie, farmer, Middle Balbeggie  
William Greig, farmer, Berran  
Greig Haxton, farmer, Kirkaldy  
John Kilgour, Kinglassie

Robert Wilson, farmer, Glassmont  
James Bogie, Balbie  
John Russell, Balgonie Bleachfield  
Alexander Greig, Kinglassie  
Andrew Blackwood do.  
William Martin, do.  
James Gourlay, do.  
David Greig, farmer, Cartmoor  
William Fowles, farmer, Rosewell  
David Wilkie, Kinglassie  
George Anderson, do.  
Alexander Greig, farmer, Hynd  
John Gardiner, farmer, Pitmenzie  
John Gibb, farmer, Pitteuchar  
Alexander Bennet, farmer, Bogside  
Thomas Wilson, farmer, Kirkland  
David Mill, farmer, Bankhead  
William Archibald, farmer, Leslie  
And. Thallon, farmer, Cowdenlaws  
Alex. Crawford, South Balbeggy  
Robert Condie, farmer, Borland  
John Sands, farmer, Bridgehills  
Samuel Anderson, brewer and farmer, Kinglassie  
David Collier, farmer, Parknook  
Alex. Pearson, mason, Kinglassie  
J. Johnston, farmer, Lochty-Bridge  
Walter Scott, farmer, Feal  
David Bogie, farmer, Dundonald  
William Williamson, Kinglassie  
James Kilgour, farmer, Pitlochrie  
Robert Kilgour, farmer, Bowhouse  
Robert Smith, Kinglassie  
James Cairns, farmer, Stroudie  
James Russell, farmer, Templehall  
Thomas Pearson, Duloch  
Henry Gray, Bellknow  
W. Cairstairs, Ferrybank  
John Learmonth, Pitlessie Mill

Wm. White, farmer, Craigfoodie	John Inglis, farmer, Kirkaldy
John Scott, farmer, Bandirran	William Kidd, farmer, do.
J. Webster, farmer, King's-Kettle	Thomas Nicolson, farmer, Tough
And. Landale, farmer, Balmbreich	William Birrell, Bogie
Henry Mitchell, farmer, Creich	John Elder, jun., do.
A. Mathew, farmer, Westerforret	James Goodall, Kirkaldy
David Morton, farmer, East Clatto	A. Sunter, chief-magistrate, Earls-
George Brown, farmer, Balgarvie	ferry
Wm. Morton, farmer, Ladeddie	William Brown, Earlsferry
D. Morton, Bunzion Limeworks	William Sunter, do.
T. Walker, farmer, Mains of Blebo	Thomas Goodale, Harestanes
D. Dryburgh, farmer, Kinninmonth	George Anderson, farmer, Bowhill
G. A. White, farmer, Nisbetfield	George Low, Wellsgreen
Thos. Morton, farmer, East Flisk	P. M. Grant, minister, Auchter-
Alex. Rhind, farmer, Woodhaven	derran
James Walker, farmer, Struthers	W. B. Low, parochial schoolmaster,
George Wilson, farmer, Maryfield	Auchterderran
Robert Hean, farmer, Claremont	Joseph Steel, farmer, Redhouse
J. Birrell, farmer, Wester Kinnear	Adam Henderson, farmer, Pitkinny
Thomas Scott, Pitlessie	A. Bogle, farmer, South Pitkinny.
Robert Donaldson, do.	Robert Glass, farmer, Craigend
James Pearson, farmer, Wilkieston	John Pride, farmer, Balbedie
W. Anderson, jun., manufacturer,	Alex. Beath, farmer, Arnot Mill
Newburgh	David Scott, farmer, Muirton
D. H. Lyell, surgeon, Newburgh	James Watt, farmer, Dogton
James Wilkie, junior, do.	Alexander Goodall, Cluny Colliery
John Anderson, do.	James Goodall, do.
John Pitkeathly, do.	John Clark, Cluny
William Byars, do.	Alexander Nicolson, New Carden
James A. Lyell, do.	James Fowles, farmer, Deanend
Hugh Crail, do.	Alexander Scott, farmer, Bowhill
James Blyth, do.	Thos. Millar, farmer, Parson's Mill
George Whyte, baker, do.	A. Wishart, feuar, Auchterderran
Alexander Lyell, do.	Alex. Shand, farmer, Muirhead
Alexander Morris, do.	David Aitken of Windyedge
Andrew Cochran, do.	David Spence, farmer, Craigkelly
Robert Morgan, do.	William Dick of Nether Grange
D. Hepburn, merchant, do.	William Moyess, feuar, Glassmont
Thomas Halliburton, do.	Alex. Leslie, farmer, Drinkbetween
David White, do.	Peter Martin, sen., mason, Chapel
Robert Bell, shoemaker, do.	J. Drummond, innkeeper, Markinch
Thomas Greig, farmer, Pitkivie	Robert Lawson, wright, do.
Thos. Haldane, farmer, Strathore	George Millar, farmer, do.
Thomas Grey, farmer, Coul	David Thomson, tailor, do.
W. Martin, farmer, Auchterderran	George Selcraig, merchant, do.
Alex. Thomson, farmer, Strathore	George Patterson, surgeon, do.
J. Lyell, manufacturer, Newburgh	James Baillie, upholsterer, do.
G. Anderson, do.	John Knox, smith, do.
Andrew Davidson, do.	William Mathew, mason, do.
Thomas Robertson, do.	James Laverock, feuar, do.
Alexander Henderson, do.	George Fyale, Bainton
David Clark, do.	E. Brown, innkeeper, Kennoway
Andrew Blyth, do.	David Pratt, merchant, do.
William Fotheringham, do.	James Wilkie, do.
John Speed, do.	Geo. Shoolbred, merchant, do.
William Lyell, do.	James Wilson, do.
John Blyth, do.	Andrew Wilson, baker, Leven
John Mill, do.	William Kinnear, do.
P. Cameron, Cupar	John Balfour, Leven Mills
Thos. Russell, engineer, Kirkaldy	Alexander Whyte, wright, Leven
Robert Carstairs, farmer, Balweary	H. Melville, merchant, Markinch

William Murray, feuar, Markinch	Francis Whyte, blacksmith, Leathie
John Inglis, manufacturer, do.	James Ireland, baker, do.
James Chalmers, North Hall	George Beath, innkeeper, do.
George Galloway, Markinch	James Greig, weaver, do.
William Hill, do.	Robert Young, carrier, do.
Thomas Fernie, Star of Treanton	James Murray, blacksmith, do.
David Campbell, Star	James Haggart, flaxplaner, do.
Robert Wilkie, do.	James Neaves, merchant, do.
C. Campbell, farmer, Treanton	William Reddie, feuar, do.
George Geddie, Bainton	John Arthur, wright, do.
Alexander Blyth, Kennoway	John Kay, blacksmith, do.
James Swan, do.	John Blair, tailor, do.
Michael Blyth, do.	William Dishart, merchant, do.
David Masop, do.	William Alice, tanner, do.
John Smith, wright, Windygates	Henry Mitchell, wright, do.
Alex Gourlay, merchant, Leven	James Deas, weaver, do.
James Nicol, merchant, do.	David Swan, manufacturer, do.
John Greig, do.	Henry Archibald, wright, do.
John Whyte, do.	George Jarvis, weaver, do.
David Martin, feuar, Dubbieside	J. Jarvis, junior, proprietor, do.
David Crichton, farmer, Little Lun	William Webster, weaver, do.
Archibald Welsh, innkeeper, Thornton	Robert Russell, publican, do.
John Dick, merchant, Thornton	David Robertson, shoemaker, do.
John Pearson, Balgonie Bleachfield	James Jollie, weaver, do.
John Millar, Milton	William Reid, land-surveyor, do.
J. G. Stuart, Balgonie Mills	Robert Jameson, weaver, do.
George Hutchison, Coaltown	John Lister, shoemaker, do.
Andrew Fleming, Kennoway	John Beveridge, confectioner, do.
James Peattie, Leven	Robert Orr, baker, do.
Joseph Norval, Thornton	George Anderson, banker, Kirkcaldy
James Alison, farmer, Coaltown of Balgonie	George Beveridge, junior, do.
Robert Hutchison, do.	Andrew Stark, farmer, Cardenbarns
Andrew Swan, Milton of Balgonie	Robert Balfour, farmer, Kirkcaldy
John Doig, do.	George Beveridge, do.
John Graham, do.	David Jackson, farmer, Burntisland
P. Watson, Coaltown of Balgonie	James Young, farmer, do.
David Forrester, Ceres	Henry Inglis, Newington
William Wilkie, do.	Thomas Arpott of Chapel
J. Dryburgh, manufacturer, Craigrothie	Thomas Thomson, Logie
David Gourlay, baker, do.	John Annan, Lydow Mill
George Howie, Ceres	John Haxton, Drumrod
Arch. Mitchell, farmer and builder, Cupar	Thomas Carstairs, Colineburgh
David Goodfellow, engineer, Ceres	R. Ireland, St. Andrews
William Donaldson, do.	Robert Methven, Dairsie
William Scott, baker, do.	John Smith, Wellfield
John Sturrock, feuar, do.	Samuel Melville, Lucklaw
Thomas Gourlay, vintner, do.	W. Johnston, Kirkton of Balmerine
T. Murdoch, senior magistrate, Leathie	John Henderson, Kirkton
T. Bernard, junior, do.	John Henderson, do.
James Hardie, shoemaker, do.	William Beveridge, manufacturer, Kirkcaldy
Jas. Anderson, manufacturer, do.	J. Jameson, manufacturer, Kirkcaldy
James Finlay, agent, do.	Alexander Brown, Hayfield
James Mitchell, carrier, do.	Alex. Duncan, farmer, Mossfield
James Webster, weaver, do.	William Hay, farmer, Lassodie
Robert Bell, feuar, do.	William Campbell, farmer, Oakfield
Alex. Buchanan, weaver, do.	David Brown, smith, do.
Alexander Anderson, do.	P. Anderson, farmer, Whinnyhall
	R. Ramsay, farmer, Lassodie Mains
	D. Ireland, farmer, West Finglassie
	James Mitchell, farmer, Redwells

James Syme, farmer, Whinnyhall	Charles Tullis, farmer, Burntirk
John Hutchison, Kirkaldy	Henry Thallon, farmer, Devon
J. Williamson, farmer, Bogie Mains	Samuel Buist, tailor, Kettle
Henry Beveridge, banker, Kirkaldy	William Marshall, Fruchie
William Henry, do.	John Scott, do.
A. G. Malcolm, do.	James Scott, do.
Wm. Hutchison, farmer, Carberry	James Cameron, do.
William McKenzie, Auchtertool	James Wilkie, do.
Geo. Graham, merchant, Kirkaldy	John Kay, do.
John Landale, Woodbank	Thomas Birrell, do.
William Swan, Tyrie Bleachfield	Andrew Birrell, do.
And. Galloway, farmer, Cult Mill	James Lawson, do.
James Butters, Largo	Henry Henderson, do.
George Buttercase, Pitlessie	Thomas Lumsden, do.
Thomas S. Beveridge, Grangehill	Alex. Lishman, do.
Patrick Cleghorn, Wakefield	William Mitchell, do.
George Aitken, farmer, Tyrie	James Burnett, Glenniston
John Stocks, Kilerook	Adam Begg, Lumphinain Colliery
Andrew Colville, Galdry	Henry Watson, Lochgelly
James Fewlis, do.	John Trotter, do.
David Rollo, Forret Mill	James Inglis, farmer, Silvertoun
Robert Murdoch, Forret	William Reid, minister, Lochgelly
David Gibson, writer, Kirkaldy	William Dick, feuar, do.
Andrew Dingwall, Springfield	James Kinnell, do.
Alex. Honeyman, do.	Henry Chisholm, feuar, do.
James Honeyman, do.	Jas. Greig, farmer, West Cartmore
George Honeyman, do.	James Lawson, feuar, Buckhaven
John Honeyman, do.	John Deas, feuar, do.
William Condie, Myre Gornie	James Wallace, do.
James Balfour of Ashgrove	William Logie, feuar, do.
Andrew Lawrie, farmer, Kirkland of Wemyss	James Wallace, do.
A. Boswall, New Mill, Leven	John Deas, fisherman, do.
J. Adamson, Durie Foundry, Leven	James Robertson, do. do.
Henry Balfour, Leven Bank	Robert Thomson, do. do.
J. Wilkie, leather merchant, Leven	Andrew Baxter, manufacturer, East Wemyss
Thomas Page, merchant, do.	Daniel Doig, wright, East Wemyss
Robert Peacock, merchant, do.	James Barclay, feuar, do.
George Lochtie, merchant, do.	David Greig, innkeeper, do.
William Arnott, feuar, do.	Alex. Thomson, feuar, do.
Thomas Wilkie, feuar, do.	John Ness, grocer, do.
William Anderson, feuar, do.	Henry Foreman, feuar, do.
James Low, feuar, do.	James White, baker, do.
Thomas Annan, Millfield, do.	John Kyles, feuar, do.
John Campbell, feuar, Methil	John Burt, feuar, do.
John Balmain, feuar, do.	John Bousie, grocer, do.
John Black, feuar, do.	William Fernie, Raecruick
T. Ireland, merchant, Buckhaven	James Dowie, Balcruvie
John Ireland, merchant, do.	David Philp, Milton of Balgonie
Thomas Bonthron, baker, do.	Alexander Cameron, Fruchie
William Taylor, feuar, do.	Walter Ness, manufacturer, East Wemyss
Js. Deas Bonthron, feuar, do.	Robert Scott, farmer, New Farm
James Taylor, feuar, do.	And. Brown, cattle-dealer, Lochgelly
John Wilson, feuar, Lochgelly	John Philp, surgeon, Kirkaldy
Alex. Lawson, manufacturer, Kettle	David Davidson, Elie
Thomas Adamson, farmer, do.	John Small, do.
John Adamson, farmer, do.	John Morris, do.
Peter Russel, farmer, Dams	John Archibald, do.
William Wilson, farmer, Holekettle	Alex. Lawson, do.
Jas. Webster, farmer, Fruchie Mill	
James Swan of Riggs	



<p>             Ro. Wallace, Newtown of Leslie              John Galloway, farmer, Finmouth              John Smith, farmer, Westertown              James Smith, farmer, Ingrie              James Dow, farmer, Ballingal              William Scott, Bank Place, Leslie              Alex. Swan, millspinner, Kinghorn              Andrew Deas, Buckhaven              Thomas Gibb, baker, Markinch              George Pottie, do.              David Campbell, Star              Robert Beath, feuar, Castleheggie              John Wishart, Kennoway              Andrew Inglis, Leven Mills              J. Dalrymple, Meetings, Markinch              John Lawrie, Brownfield              A. Morris, millspinner, Kennoway              Walter Williamson, do.              John Campbell, Star              David Tenant, Denino              William Greig, Bonnytown              William Berwick, Stravithie Mill              William Hood, Stravithie              Robert Russell, Kirkaldy              John Heggie, dyer, Linktown              Walter Heggie, dyer, Kirkaldy              James Thomson, farmer, Balcormo              Henry Thomson, farmer, Humberie              F. Cathcart of St. Margaret's              Robert Greig, innkeeper, Aberdour              David Wilkie, feuar, do.              James Horn, feuar, do.              Peter Kennedy, feuar, do.              James Whyte, shipmaster, do.              James Livingstone, feuar, do.              John Cunningham, smith, do.              Robert Binnie of Seaton Mains              William Douglas of Pinkerton              T. Duncan, professor, St. Andrews              William Mason, do.              James Russell, farmer, Boarhills              John Russell, wright and farmer,                  St. Andrews              Robert Ferguson of Raith, M.P.              David Peat, Viewforth House              James Stenhouse of North Fod              T. Cunningham, farmer, Dalachy              Henry Paterson, farmer, Balmule              James Wood, wright, East Wemyss              John Primrose, farmer, Callange              James Yoole, manufacturer, Ceres              James Lawson, do. do.              John Scott, weaver, Bridge-End              J. Adamson, manufacturer, Ceres              John Moyes, farmer, Pitkinnie              Alex. Sands, grocer, Aberdour              James Aitken, carter, do.              Henry Millar, farmer, Cameron           </p>	<p>             William Spalding, professor, St.                  Andrews              Robert Wemyss, Kirkaldy              Geo. Birrell, farmer, Bogie Mains              The Rev. Daniel Gorrie, Kettle              James Johnstone, feuar, do.              James Inglis, wright, do.              John Oxford, wright, do.              Wm. Campbell, blacksmith, do.              James Allison, feuar, Balmalcolm              Jas. Mitchell, Balmalcolm Cottage              William Henderson, do.              David Millar, farmer, Annfield              George Tullas, wright, Muirhead              Andrew Bayne, do.              Geo. Millar, manufacturer, Strath-                  miglo              Henry Laing, wright, Strathmiglo              Wm. Wishart, merchant, do.              Mathew Barclay, feuar, do.              John Ritchie, mason, do.              James Duncan, do.              James Wilkie, mason, do.              John Todd, feuar, do.              Henry Anderson, feuar, Dunshelt              C. Kinnear of Kinloch              J. Guthrie, M.D., Newburgh              John Arnott, chief magistrate, Auch-                  termuchty              William Johnston, manufacturer, do.              George Moodie, farmer, Denbog              James Scott              George Thomson, corn-merchant,                  Newburgh              Alexander Simpson, Halhill              James Beveridge, portioner, Auch-                  termuchty              John Bonthron, magistrate, do.              John Heggie, Brunton              John Miller of Kinsleith              John Peat, farmer, Carphin              David Smith, manufacturer, Luthrie              R. Smith, Luthrie and Pitlessie              Robert Smith, Brunton (Leslie)              David Husband, East Forret              David Carswell of Rathillet              James Lonie, Clubstone              John Millar, junior, boat-builder,                  St. Monance              J. Jack, schoolmaster, St. Monance              G. Kennedy, minister, Kilconquhar              Alexander Milne, Elie              George Leitch, do.              Alexander Tullis, do.              Thomas Fairnie, Kilconquhar              Wm. Murray of Henderland and                  Kinkells              Robert Wilson of Retreat           </p>
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A similar Requisition was set on foot, with a view to

get Mr Onesiphorus Tyndall Bruce to stand for the County :—

TO ONESIPHORUS TYNDALL BRUCE, ESQ.

SIR,

BELIEVING that your eminent abilities peculiarly fit you for serving your country in Parliament, and having, in your high character and independent principles, an assurance that these talents would be employed for the benefit of the public at large, without respect of parties,—We, the undersigned Electors of the County of Fife, earnestly request that you will allow yourself to be proposed at the ensuing General Election as a Candidate for the representation of the County.—We are, &c.,

July 1847.

On the 17th July, Mr Balfour informed the Electors, in the following communication, that the state of Mr Bruce's health obliged him to decline offering himself as a Candidate, but that Mr Balfour himself had been induced to take the field:—

TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF FIFE.

Balbirnie, 17th July 1847.

GENTLEMEN,

UP to this moment I have been in the expectation that Mr Tyndall Bruce would have responded to the wishes of many of the Constituency, and that he would have placed his political services at your disposal; but Mr Bruce having, in consequence of the state of his health, positively declined to do so, I no longer hesitate to comply with a desire that has been very generally expressed by my Friends, and to offer myself as a candidate to represent you in Parliament.

I am very distrustful of my own ability efficiently to watch over the interests of this great and important County; but should these be intrusted to my care, I beg, respectfully, to assure you, that I shall honestly and faithfully devote myself to the task.

I shall, on Monday next, take the liberty of issuing an Address, explaining my political sentiments.—I am, &c.

JOHN BALFOUR.

In the meantime, Mr Fergus continued to receive renewed promises of support. The two communications which follow announced the important fact that the Reform Committees of Dunfermline and Auchtermuchty had declared themselves in his favour :—

Dunfermline, 20th July 1847.

At a meeting of the Reform Committee, they resolved to support Mr Fergus.

(Signed) JAS. M'FARLANE, Secretary.

Auchtermuchty, 19th July 1847.

The Reform Committee unanimously resolved to co-operate with Mr Fergus' Committee in returning that gentleman as Member for the County, and to use every exertion in their power for that purpose.

(Signed) JOHN ARNOTT, Secretary.

Here follow the addresses of the respective Candidates :—

#### TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF FIFE.

GENTLEMEN,

A NUMEROUSLY-SIGNED Requisition, to offer myself as a Candidate for the Representation of the County at the approaching Election, has this day been presented to me. In doing me this high honour, I fear that you evince an opinion of my capabilities which no efforts of mine may ever be able to justify ; but being so asked, I should fail in a public duty if I hesitated to present myself before you. For the future, I shall only promise that, if I am elected to represent the County in Parliament, I shall bring to the discharge of my public duties a deep sense of their importance, and the habits of a life which has hitherto been spent in active employment.

The political principles which will influence my votes in Parliament are the same I have always professed ; and time has not served to change my opinions as to the application of these principles to the practical improvement of the Constitution of the Country. I disclaim entirely the doctrine of Finality in the Reform Act, or any other law which can be altered for the benefit of the Nation. I think there is much to be done to simplify the Electoral

Qualification and to facilitate its exercise; and that the Franchise itself might be safely and wisely extended to classes of the people who do not now enjoy it. The gradual adoption, however, of just principles in Political, as well as Commercial, Legislation, has narrowed the grounds of difference of opinions on such subjects, and the questions pressing for immediate decision are not those most likely to awaken former party distinctions.

The Promotion of Education is likely to occupy the early attention of Parliament. In this I am inclined to think that the tendency of Government is to do too much. I acknowledge it is the duty of the State to lead, to guide, and to assist the efforts of the people to obtain Education; but I am of opinion the object would be more effectually gained by assistance given to local efforts under local control, than by a system of centralisation and interference, which will teach men a helpless reliance on Government aid. But the real elevation of the moral character of the people by Education must be consequent upon an improvement in their physical state; and I know of no course by which this can be so effectually promoted, as by a perseverance in those wise measures of Free Trade, of which the Repeal of the Corn Law was the commencement.

It is not enough, however, that men should be allowed to gather in the rewards of their industry by a Free Trade with other nations. They must be enabled to exercise that industry at home, without the interference of oppressive and unjust laws. Of such a character are the Excise Laws, by which a revenue is collected at undue and unnecessary expense to the State, and which, by their irksome and vexatious operation, prevent the application of skill and science to every branch of manufacture, subject to their influence. Of such a character are the Game Laws, which, besides their cruel and baneful effects on the relation of Landlord and Tenant, besides their direct injury to the cultivation of the soil, have been the fruitful source of moral degradation to the people. Of such a character are the preferable right of Hypothec—the Law of Entail—and other remnants of Feudal Right and Class Legislation which still adhere to the Possession of Land.

In the progress of Government in later times, one important advance has been the removal of most of the disabilities and restraints which formerly attached to the profession of different Religious Creeds. I recognise, in its

broadest sense, the right of every man to the most unfettered liberty of conscience; but I shall resist the further extension of Endowments to any favoured Sect, and I shall earnestly oppose all countenance and encouragement by the State to the Roman Catholic Religion, the power of which can scarcely exist along with a right appreciation of Civil Liberty, and which I firmly believe to be inconsistent with the whole spirit and character of the Institutions of this Country.

I shall have to request the honour of Meetings of the Electors in the various districts of the County, that I may state my opinions more in detail, and answer such questions as may arise.—I am, &c.,

JOHN FERGUS.

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TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF FIFE.

GENTLEMEN,

IN consequence of the expected dissolution of Parliament, and for the reasons stated in my hurried address to you on Saturday last, I now present myself to your notice.

In appearing as a Candidate for the honour of representing my native county in Parliament, and in soliciting your suffrages, it is necessary that I should make a brief statement of my political opinions, as I have no previous parliamentary services to refer to, nor have I hitherto made any public declaration of my sentiments. These, perhaps, I could not better explain than by saying that, had I had the honour of a seat in Parliament, I should have felt it my duty to support the measures which have been proposed by the present Government.

Her Majesty's Ministers have laid the country under a deep debt of gratitude in having successfully grappled with the question of Education in England, the importance of which subject has long been acknowledged, but which has hitherto baffled all attempts at a satisfactory adjustment.

Their measures for the amelioration of the condition of the Working Classes have been framed in a spirit of wise and paternal policy, and though some of these have been abandoned, I have little doubt they will be re-introduced next session, and I trust with success.

The great question as to the free importation of Corn

has been *finally* settled ; any attempt to disturb that wise and deliberate act of the Legislature can never for a moment be entertained.

I am desirous that the true principles of Trade and Commerce thus established should be persevered in, and extended to other commodities, so far as is consistent with a due regard to the revenues of the country.

I have not as yet turned my attention to the laws relating to Excise. I have reason to believe that the regulations imposed by these laws are unnecessarily irksome and oppressive, and might safely undergo revision.

The Game Laws having proved a frequent source of disagreement between landlord and tenant, I am of opinion that a considerable modification is therefore advisable. I would propose to exclude hares from the game list, and would support any measure for putting the whole of these laws upon a more agreeable and satisfactory footing.

I am sincerely and deeply attached to our Protestant Constitution, and am prepared to resist any proposition for the national endowment of the Roman Catholic priesthood.

I come before you as an independent man, unfettered by party ties, and free from party pledges. I am prepared to support all measures, from whatever quarter they may proceed, that may appear to me calculated to remove abuses, and to strengthen and maintain the constitution of our country. I shall, during my canvass, endeavour to explain my views fully to all whom it is in my power to address.

An anxious wish to promote the local interests of this important County has ever been my desire. I aspire to the honour of being your Representative, deeply sensible of the responsibility such a position will involve; and should I be successful in attaining that honour, I am prepared to exert myself to the utmost of my ability in promoting the welfare of all classes of the community.—I am, &c.,

JOHN BALFOUR.

Balbirnie, 19th July 1847.

The progress which the Candidates made in their Canvass, and the reception they severally met with at the different places where they addressed the Electors, will be best told in several reports of these meetings which appeared in the local newspapers at the time.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH MR FERGUS.

*(Slightly Abridged from the Fife Herald of July 29 and August 5.)*

## CUPAR.

According to announcement, Mr Fergus, one of the candidates for the representation of Fife, addressed the electors in the Guild Hall, Cupar, on Thursday, 22d July, at two o'clock. Mr Fergus, who was accompanied by Mr Kinnear of Kinloch, Mr Arnott of Chapel, and other leading Liberals, was loudly cheered on entering the room, which was crowded before the hour of meeting, and continued so throughout the proceedings. On the motion of Mr George Howie, Ceres, Mr Arnott was called to the chair, who, having acknowledged the compliment paid him in putting him in the chair, introduced Mr Fergus to the meeting.

Mr Fergus said—Notwithstanding the very flattering manner in which you have called me forward, and notwithstanding the respectable attendance that I now see before me, you may believe me when I say, that I do not stand before you for the first time as a candidate for the representation of my native county in Parliament without personal embarrassment; and I might tell you, also, that I entertain doubts and fears for the future. But these are not fears that my political opinions will be found different from those of the great mass of the electors—these are not doubts that you will return me to Parliament, by an overwhelming majority, to vindicate those principles which both you and I profess. But my doubts and fears are—knowing, as I do, the solemn responsibilities and the arduous duties that devolve upon the representative of such a county as Fife—my doubts and fears are as to my temerity in undertaking such a duty. (Applause.) But I have asked the honour of this meeting, not to speak to you of my own fears or my own feelings, but to state my political opinions more in detail than I have been able to do in the short address that I have issued—those opinions on which you may reckon that my votes in Parliament shall, if I be returned, be grounded. And whatever doubts and fears I might have on other subjects, I trust that here, at least, I shall be able to express myself distinctly, because the political opinions which I shall now state are those which I have maintained from my youth; and as nothing in the past has tended very materially to

alter or modify them, so I do not think there is anything likely to occur in the future that will do so either. Such are my opinions now—and such, I think, you may reckon on them continuing. I do not wish to be identified with any of the great parties in the state, who evidence their existence by their struggles for the possession of the Executive power, and the emoluments of office. I wish rather to be identified with that great party in the State—far greater than any—I mean that great party which obtained from the Tory Government of 1829 the abolition of Roman Catholic disabilities, and whose steps have since been marked by the Reformation of Parliament, by the manumission of the slave, and the emancipation of industry—I mean that great party which advocates social progress. (Loud applause.) It is that party which wishes to adapt the laws and institutions of the country to the progress of civilisation, and knowledge, and wealth. A great step was made in advance when the Reform Act was passed. I do not mean to say that the Reform Act has justified the hopes or fulfilled the expectations of its more ardent and sanguine supporters—myself among the rest. On the contrary, I think we have still to regret that intimidation and bribery are yet as fatal as before in many of our small constituencies. We still find that the influence of the aristocracy prevails too much in the election of representatives to the House of Commons; but, for all that, I believe that the Reform Act has not been without its effects. It has opened the door of the House of Commons to those who might, but for it, have knocked there in vain. We do not find that the landed interest is less powerful in the House of Commons since the passing of the Reform Act, nor do I think it were desirable that such should have been found to have been the case. The landed interest is one of the greatest and most powerful interests in the country—nay, I will say that there is much to say in favour of the people possessing members of that class as their representatives. But I should have the landed proprietors under the influence of public opinion, as they would make better representatives of the people when their interests are identified with the interests of the people. (Applause.) To identify the interests of the landed proprietors with those of the people, I believe is one of the great works that await the Parliament you are about to elect. Perhaps the first question which is nearest all your hearts, and which is likely



immediately to come before Parliament, is the repeal of the Game Laws. (Applause.) I am not going to enter into statistical details to prove the effects of these laws, nor am I going to trace the effects they have had, and would continue to have, upon the relation of landlord and tenant. There are many here who bear in their recollection the bitter remembrance of the effects of these laws, and there may be many who have present experience of the evils arising from their operation. Still less am I going to enter into the moral question of the evil of the Game Laws. It is a statistical fact, that there are about 40,000 individuals who take out licenses to shoot game every year. It is another statistical fact, that there are 4000 convictions yearly, under the Game Laws, in England alone. Thus, for every ten men who enjoy the privilege of shooting game, one unfortunate being is punished for infringement of the statute. But this is only a small indication of the evils and moral degradation caused by these laws, because there are many who come to punishment afterwards, for a career of crime which was begun by snaring a hare or shooting a pheasant. I will never attempt to deny that these are crimes, so far as they involve trespass on a man's property, or are set down as offences by the law of the land. But you may continue to heap statute upon statute till the end of time, but will never get men to believe that that is a crime which neither God nor Nature have stamped with the character of crime. There is one piece of advice on that subject which I should wish to give you. When the agitation for the repeal of the Corn Laws was commenced, I was one of the earliest who joined it in 1837. It appeared to me and many others, that, in asking a total repeal of the Corn Laws, we were asking what we never should get from the House of Commons as then constituted, and that there was no alternative but either to ask something less than a total repeal, or to get for the country a further extension of the electoral franchise. But those great and wise men who have since gained to themselves a European reputation, took a wider view of the subject, and, as it turned out, a truer view of the character of the people of this country. They said to us—"No, ask for nothing but what is just—ask for nothing more nor nothing less—ask only what you are entitled to in justice—mix this up with no other question—explain, agitate, inform, instruct the people of England on the question—and rely on it that from the

people of England you will get the total, if not the immediate, repeal of the Corn Laws." Now, as these wise men said ten years ago; I say to you now—agitate, petition for, the total and immediate repeal of the Game Laws. That is what you are entitled to—ask for no less and take no less. But do not suppose that when you repeal the Game Laws, game preserving must necessarily cease. For the sake of both landlord and tenant the law of trespass must be strengthened and enforced. That is my opinion on the Game Laws, and the method in which their repeal ought to be gone about. There is another question which, perhaps, will come before the House of Commons, although it is a question less needing popular agitation. But I believe it is very generally felt, even by landowners themselves, that great evils are inflicted on land by the want of facilities for its transfer, arising from the existence of the Law of Entail to its present extent. There is no doubt that, generally, though with some honourable exceptions, entailed estates are the worst cultivated in the country, and the existence of the Law of Entail has to a very great extent prevented the application of capital to the improvement of the soil. This, therefore, is another of the points which I think the Government or the law officers of the Crown are likely to take up and satisfactorily settle. I have no doubt the good of the community requires the immediate settlement of the question. There is another question, affecting us in Scotland, which, I believe, has excited, in the farming interest, a very great deal of discontent—I mean the existing right of Hypothec which the landlord holds over the stock and cropping of his farms. To landlords who have thriving and prosperous tenants, it is practically of little advantage, and it is, besides, an unjust privilege—it is a privilege which the owner of lands has beyond the man who owns other descriptions of property, and which operates more to the prejudice of the landlord than the tenant, although a different opinion obtains amongst those for whose advantage it was designed. The reason is this—that young and enterprising farmers, entering, with small capitals, but great energy and industry, upon the possession of farms, are deprived of that amount of accommodation which they would enjoy were their skill and industry embarked in any other occupation. The banker says—I cannot trust him while the law of Hypothec is hanging over his head; and thus the tenant is deprived of the requisites for the successful cultivation of the soil.

But I must tell the farmers, also, that if they are to get a repeal of the Game Laws, and the enjoyment of other privileges, they must come forward with clean hands—they must be prepared to give up those privileges which only farmers have—such as the exemption from the duties on fire insurances. I say that they are bound to come forward as disclaiming protection for *themselves*; and they must give their aid to obtain for other classes of the community their just rights. (Applause.) There is another question referred to in my address, to which I would wish to direct your attention. I cannot divest myself of the idea that it is the duty of the State to see that no person is allowed to grow up in the country without the benefit of education. But I have also a strong impression that Government interference should be limited—that the people can do in this matter better for themselves than the Government can do for them—that what the Government does is seldom so well done as it would have been by local influence and institutions; and that, if the Government interfere at all, it should only be in localities

- where education is very greatly deficient, and the ability of the people inadequate to supply the desideratum, and not by any system of centralisation and interference—such as that at present in operation in England. I do not mean to say that there may not be localities where Government aid might not, perhaps, be given in a more direct way; but, as a system, I deprecate the idea of Government interference, and shall not be a party to it. There are many other subjects on which I might have addressed you; for example, the currency of this country. It is a subject which has excited great interest. At the same time, although there are few subjects upon which I am better prepared to speak, I rather think it is one which will not prove very interesting to this meeting. I most cordially approve of the currency system adopted in 1844. I do not mean to say that the money which the Bank of England is allowed to keep in its coffers might not be advantageously increased; but, as a general principle, I approve of the Currency Act of 1844. I wish to maintain that principle, because I believe the evils of this country, and the great cause of the drains of gold, has not been the importation of foreign corn; but I conceive that a drain from internal panic is one of the most prominent of the causes of the derangement of our monetary system. I might go on to other subjects, but I think it will be

better for me to conclude. I am willing to answer any questions that may be put to me. I have made you an offer of my services in Parliament, and I can only say that, if you return me to Parliament, I will devote all the energies of my mind to the promotion of your interests. (Mr Fergus resumed his seat amid loud and enthusiastic applause.)

The Chairman having asked if any one had any questions to ask,

Mr James Aytoun rose and said, that he had a question to put, but, in the first place, he begged to make an explanation. He had read an article in the *Fife Herald* of that day, stating that he was one of those who attended a meeting in Kirkaldy, for the purpose of putting forth Mr Balfour of Balbirnie as a candidate; but he begged in answer to say that he was not present at that meeting, and he had not bound himself, either to Mr Fergus or Mr Balfour, for he was not one of those who liked to buy a pig in a poke. Mr Fergus had spoken fairly and clearly on the Game Laws, and he fully agreed in all that he had said on that subject. He did not agree with him in regard to the Law of Hypothec; but he begged to ask Mr Fergus if he was for a separation between Church and State.

Mr Fergus said he saw no practical benefit that could result from arguing on the principle of endowments. He wished to judge of the expediency of maintaining the existing endowments by their usefulness in promoting the ends for which they were instituted, which was the support of Protestant Christianity.

Mr Aytoun asked if Mr Fergus would support the motion annually made by Sharman Crawford as to Universal Suffrage.

Mr Fergus said he had always considered that the franchise should be extended with the progress of education and property. He believed a time was not distant when household suffrage might be introduced.

Mr Aytoun then read the following extract from Mr Fergus's address:—"In the progress of Government in later times, one important advance has been the removal of most of the disabilities and restraints which formerly attached to the profession of different religious creeds. I recognise, in its broadest sense, the right of every man to the most unfettered liberty of conscience; but I shall resist the further extension of

endowments to any favoured sect, and I shall earnestly oppose all countenance and encouragement by the State to the Roman Catholic Religion, the power of which can scarcely exist along with a right appreciation of Civil Liberty, and which I firmly believe to be inconsistent with the whole spirit and character of the Institutions of this Country." He then went on to say that there was something about this extract that he wished explained. It appeared from it that Mr Fergus was what was called a "No Popery" man, and the construction that may be put upon it was, that no man could be an admiral, or a general, or anything else, simply because he had not the principles of civil and religious liberty.

Mr Fergus, in reply, said he was glad that Mr Aytoun had pointed out the paragraph that needed explanation. He understood that all offices were open to the Roman Catholic as well as to others, except the Lord Chancellorship. If he had been in Parliament at the time of the Maynooth grant, he would have voted against it.

Mr Aytoun said that Mr Fergus had answered his questions fairly and honestly; he had stated that he would withhold endowments from all; and he proposed that the thanks of the meeting should be given to Mr Fergus, for having come before them in so able and manly a manner.

Mr Kinnear of Kinloch seconded the motion.

Mr Fergus thanked the meeting. He said that he had been met with a report that he (Mr Fergus) would not go to the poll, and he took the present time to contradict it in the strongest language. (Great applause.)

The meeting then separated.

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On the evening of the same day, Mr Fergus held meetings with the electors at Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, and Falkland, at all which places he was received with the most hearty and enthusiastic applause. Flags were displayed in abundance, and the bands of Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo were called into service, to sound a welcome to the Liberal candidate. At all these places, the horses were taken from the carriage in which Mr Fergus rode, and it was drawn along by the inhabitants. It is almost impossible to describe the hearty reception he met with. From Auchtermuchty to Strathmiglo, and from thence to Falkland, Mr Fergus was attended by a dense crowd of the inhabitants of these places. The speeches

Mr Fergus delivered at these places, although shorter than the one he delivered at Cupar, contained nothing but what was embraced in his address at the last-mentioned place.

#### MARKINCH.

On Friday the 23d July, Mr Fergus addressed the electors of Markinch in the hall, and was very favourably received. In the course of his address, Mr Fergus touched upon a great variety of topics, on all of which his remarks were well received; and, at the conclusion of his address, several questions were put to him, which he answered in a most satisfactory manner.

#### LEVEN.

Placards having announced that Mr Fergus would meet with the electors of the parishes of Scoonie, Kennoway, and Wemyss, in Leven, on Friday evening, the 23d July, that town, in consequence, presented a very gay and bustling aspect, flags decorating the houses and streets, while the Kirkland band, with some of the electors, and a great crowd, went in procession to the bridge to wait Mr Fergus's arrival at six o'clock. Mr Fergus was greeted with loud and hearty acclamations; and, while the band played patriotic airs, the procession moved onward through the principal streets to the United Presbyterian Chapel, which was nearly filled with a respectable audience. Henry Peter, Esq., Kirkland Works, was called to the chair, and introduced Mr Fergus to the meeting. Mr Fergus thanked the assembly for the cordial and enthusiastic reception which he had received, and which he attributed more to the liberal principles with which the inhabitants of the district were imbued, than to any merit he himself possessed. Hitherto, Fife had been represented by the landed aristocracy, and it was rather a new feature, that he (Mr Fergus), who belonged to a different class, had been requested to come forward to represent such an important county as this. He would state freely and frankly his opinions and views on the political topics that now chiefly engrossed public attention—opinions which had been carefully and maturely formed, and were not now brought forward for the first time, and opinions, therefore, from which he would not likely swerve. He did not consider the Reform Bill a final measure, and thought an extension of the franchise might be proper, but would not agree to Universal Suffrage, though he might go the length

of Household Suffrage. Mr F. was opposed to vote by ballot, unless cases should occur where electors could not exercise this privilege without being subject to intimidation and coercion. Our present system of taxation required a revision, and he thought taxes on the necessities of life should be greatly modified; and while he was opposed to an Income Tax, he considered a Property Tax as fair and equitable. He condemned the Game Laws, and would vote for their complete and total removal. With regard to endowments, he would do nothing to injure the Church of Scotland, that had for two hundred years done much for the support and extension of religion; but he regarded the Church Establishment in Ireland as one of the evils that tended to disturb the peace and hinder the prosperity of that country, and that it should be greatly altered, while he regretted that the Church of England seemed approximating greatly to the forms and practices of the Roman Catholic religion. He was totally opposed to the endowment of Popery, as he considered the tendency of that religion inimical to civil liberty. Mr F. then adverted to Church sites, Education, Excise Abuses, and other topics, and was highly applauded during his address, while he repeatedly called upon the electors to ask any question they chose, which he would answer fairly and honestly. No questions, however, were put; and after three cheers were given for Mr F., and thanks were awarded to the chairman, the meeting quietly broke up. Owing to Mr F.'s arrival it was like a holiday in Leven, the shops being shut in the evening, and bands of people from the country flocking to the town to see the procession, and hear the address of a candidate for Parliamentary honours.

#### KIRKALDY.

On Saturday, the 24th July, Mr Fergus addressed the electors in the Kirkaldy district, in the Town-Hall, there, which was crowded to excess. Mr Wilson of Glassmont, on being called on to preside, introduced Mr Fergus to the meeting as a gentleman every way qualified to represent the county. Mr Fergus then delivered an address of considerable length, in his usual fluent and perspicuous style. The substance of this address was the same as that delivered at Cupar. After the delivery of his address, which was very cordially received, Mr Fergus had several questions put to him by some of the electors present.

## ST ANDREWS.

Mr Fergus addressed the County Electors in the St Andrews district in the Town-Hall, St Andrews, on Monday the 26th July. He was escorted to the Hall by several gentlemen, and accompanied by the city band. The Hall was densely crowded, and Mr Fergus was received with hearty cheers as he entered the room. On the motion of Professor Duncan, Peter Cleghorn, Esq., of Stravithie, was called to the chair, and Mr Fergus addressed the meeting in a somewhat similar manner to his address to the Cupar electors. He concluded by saying that there were many other subjects on which he might have spoken, but if any one had any questions to ask he would be ready to answer them. The chairman having asked if any one had any questions to put, a voice exclaimed, "He is forgetting the Navigation Laws." Mr Fergus replied that he sought for Free Trade on the sea as well as on the land. Mr Gillespie, tailor, asked what about the window lights duty? Mr Fergus, in answer, said that the window duty was designed to favour the population of the large towns; but he thought that the inhabited house duty was the tax for all. In answer to a question concerning the currency, he replied that he was in favour of the system introduced in 1844. The Rev. Mr Lothian, St. Andrews, having asked Mr Fergus's opinions regarding endowments, he answered by saying that he did not feel called upon to enter into the principle of endowments. He would rather assume them as an existing fact, and speak of them as such. He was against the State endowing any other sect than those that were endowed already; but he did not wish for the withdrawal of the existing endowments; and he might state that he would not countenance the endowing of the Roman Catholic Church. He referred not to its creed when he said so, but when he looked upon it as a political engine, he considered that its principles were against the advancement of civil and religious liberty, and if he had been in Parliament at the time of the Maynooth Grant, he would have voted against it. After a vote of thanks had been proposed and given to Mr Fergus, he shortly returned thanks, and said he threw himself on their hands. His principles were known. If they found him a fit person to represent them in Parliament, he could only say that he would not enter upon its duties without a deep sense of the great responsibility that would lie upon him. If he was elected



by them, he would give them every moment of his time, and every energy of his mind. (Great applause.) Three cheers having been proposed and given for Mr Fergus, the meeting separated, and the band being in attendance, accompanied him from the hall.

#### LEUCHARS.

On the evening of Tuesday the 27th July, Mr Fergus met and addressed the county electors resident in and around Leuchars. His speech was much applauded; and, at its conclusion, he answered all the questions that were put to him in a manner highly satisfactory to the meeting. We venture to say, without the fear of contradiction, that Mr F., as a man of eminent ability, ripened judgment, and proved consistency, throughout a pretty long life, would be the almost universal choice of the people of this district, if let alone; but it so happens that our parish is as thoroughly laird and factor-ridden as any parish in Ireland ever was by the priests. To forestal Mr Fergus's meeting, which had been widely advertised, "the Factor" made his appearance in the place in the early part of the day, and spent several hours in cozening the tenants and feuars, and endeavouring to entice them to vote against their conscientious convictions. What a mockery is the much-vaunted freedom of election under such a state of things! It only requires a *descent* of the bankers to complete the climax of the foul influence so freely and basely used in the present contest.

#### ELIE.

Mr Fergus delivered an address to the electors and non-electors of Elie and Earlsferry, in the Independent Chapel, Elie, on Wednesday evening the 28th July—Mr Thomas Russell, farmer, Kincaig, in the chair. The chapel was crowded to the very door, although the juvenile part remained outside. The greatest decorum prevailed, and it was gratifying to see so many electors present. Mr Fergus was listened to with deep attention, only interrupted by frequent bursts of applause. Mr William Sunter, senior, elector, proposed Mr Fergus as a fit and proper person to represent the county of Fife in Parliament, which was agreed to by acclamation. A vote of thanks was then tendered to the chairman for his good conduct in the chair, followed by three hearty cheers for Mr Fergus, and the meeting broke up.

## KINGSBARNs.

On Wednesday the 28th July, Mr Fergus visited Kingsbarns, where the sentiments he expressed gave great satisfaction.

## ST. MONANCE.

On Wednesday the 28th July, Mr Fergus addressed the county electors in St Monance. The meeting was so numerous, that the hall could not contain them, so that Mr Fergus had to address the electors in the open air. Great enthusiasm prevailed. A large assemblage met his carriage before its arrival in the village, preceded by a band, flags, &c. The electors here were much delighted with him.

## LARGO.

A large and influential meeting took place in Largo on Wednesday evening the 28th July, to hear Mr Fergus explain his political views. Mr Fergus's views gave the utmost satisfaction; indeed, so much so, that when the question was put if any one had anything to say, the cry was, "We are quite satisfied." James Wyld, Esq. of Gilston, then addressed the electors, and proposed that Mr Fergus was a fit and proper person to represent the county in Parliament, which motion was unanimously carried, and the meeting separated.

## DUNSHELT.

Mr Fergus paid a visit to this village on the 29th July, and received a most warm and cordial reception. The whole of the inhabitants rose *en masse*, and, with banners and music, escorted the worthy gentleman to a central place in the town, where he explained his principles in an open, candid, and straightforward manner. At the conclusion of Mr Fergus's address, three hearty cheers were given for his success, after which he took his leave, the music, banners, &c., accompanying him out of the town.

## LESLIE.

On Friday the 30th, Mr Fergus addressed the electors of this place. He was met on his entry into the town by the inhabitants, electors and non-electors, accompanied by a band of instrumental music, colours, &c., and escorted to Prinlows school-room, where he addressed the electors—Mr Murdie, chief magistrate, in the chair. It was moved by the Rev. Mr Johnston, and carried without a dissenting voice, that Mr Fergus is a fit and proper person to represent this county in Parliament.

## COLINSBURGH.

Although factors' influence was plied here to its full extent, yet Mr Fergus met with a most hearty reception from the electors. A large assemblage, along with an instrumental band, accompanied him and his friends from the Inn to the Hall, which was crowded to excess. After his address, Mr Thomson put several questions to Mr Fergus, to which he gave most satisfactory replies. Altogether, the meeting was of a most enthusiastic nature.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH MR BALFOUR.

(From the *Fife Herald* of August 5, 1847.)

## CUPAR.

On Thursday the 29th July, at two o'clock afternoon, Mr Balfour held a meeting in the Guild Hall, Cupar, to express his political sentiments. The meeting was attended by about 600 or 700 electors and non-electors. Mr Balfour appeared on the platform, unattended by any of his friends, and considerable difficulty was experienced in finding a chairman to preside. Mr Thomas of Forthar was ultimately prevailed on to take the chair; and, in a few words, introduced Mr Balfour to the meeting.

Mr Balfour said—I hope you will believe me to be sincere when I say that it is with feelings of, I will not say reluctance, but certainly with much diffidence as to the task I have undertaken, that I appear before you. I stand here as a candidate for the representation of the county; and I have called you together on this occasion in order to state, to such of you as may not have found an opportunity of conferring with me during my present canvass, those views and sentiments on which I shall ask you to honour me with your suffrages; and as this is the first time I have ever taken a step in this direction, I ask that indulgence which I am sure I shall receive at the hands of my fellow-countrymen. (Cheers.) Much has been said and written by my opponents—of whom I wish to speak in terms of the most perfect respect—in reference to a meeting which was held at Kirkaldy, which it is alleged was called for the purpose of organising an opposition to Mr Fergus. I assure you, gentleman, most positively, that such was not the case. That meeting had other objects in view.

Certainly the position of the county with regard to its representation was considered; and what was the state of the case? It was this. It was generally believed that the gallant gentleman to whose hands the representation of the county had so long been entrusted, did not intend again to solicit your suffrages. I knew of a requisition to Mr Tyndall Bruce, but that gentleman declined being put in nomination. I was told there was a requisition to Mr Fergus in course of signature. Now, before going further, I beg to state that, in all I say here in reference to Mr Fergus, for that gentleman I have the highest respect; I know him as a person of the highest honour and integrity, and in all the steps he has taken in this matter, I have nothing to find fault with. (Applause.) I only wish to put my own position distinctly before you. I heard of a requisition to Mr Fergus, but, judging from that honourable gentleman's letter to Mr Wilson, as well as from his former declarations, both publicly and privately, that he was unwilling again to undertake the duties of Parliament, my impression certainly was that he was at all events an unwilling candidate; and it did appear to me that, rather than let the representation of this county be thrown aside as a prize not worth trying for, and believing that my views on political matters were such as not to be unacceptable to the constituency, I announced my intention of coming forward, and on Monday evening I issued my address. On Tuesday the requisition was presented to Mr Fergus, and it is undoubtedly very numerous and respectably signed; and I am not prepared to say now, that if I had previously seen that requisition, my course might not have been different, for I have no desire to thrust myself forward against the wishes of the electors; as it is, I have, during my canvass, been received in the kindest manner, and have the strongest assurances of success. (Applause.) I shall now, gentlemen, proceed to state to you the grounds on which I ask your support on this occasion. My political opinions I have briefly stated in my address to the constituency. These, allow me to say, are neither hastily nor suddenly formed; they are the result of consideration of the acts of a long and eventful Parliament, which has now been brought to a close; and it is clear to me that it is by such opinions as these that the Government of this country must be guided in planning its measures in future. (Applause.) I am ready to give my support to her Majesty's present advisers, so long as the measures proposed

by them shall be useful and good, and conducive to the public welfare. One of the first subjects which will in all probability occupy the attention of Parliament, is the equalisation of the laws relative to taxation. I am for the abolition or restriction of those taxes which press most injuriously upon the working classes—such as the Window Tax. Much has been done to diminish the cost of glass, but until the rays of heaven can be admitted into every part of every house free of duty, little has been done for the sanitary improvement of the population. (Hear, hear.) The revenue must undoubtedly be supported, and it is tolerably certain the Income Tax must be re-imposed, and in the event of its renewal, I am inclined to think that a difference should be made in incomes derived from temporary and from permanent sources. (Applause.) With regard to the regulations relating to the Excise, I have read with some interest the papers which have been put forth by the National Association for the Reform of Excise Abuses. I think they are exceedingly moderate in their wishes of reform. I think that a modification of the excise laws must come under the consideration of Government, and be carried into effect. The interest of the whole country is concerned in the improvement of the land. I believe there is much truth in the assertion, that many entailed estates in Scotland are in a bad state of cultivation, such as any farmer in Fife would be ashamed of, and I might put my finger on some parts in Fife to which this remark might perhaps apply. This subject, I have no doubt, will receive the attention of the Legislature. How the amelioration of the Entail Law should be effected, I am not prepared to say, but perhaps the best plan would be an assimilation of it to the English Law. There was another question on which he would be expected to speak out distinctly—the Game Laws. (Applause.) Having been myself a game preserver (laughing), I know that my sentiments on this subject will be looked to with avidity, and I know that any remarks that I may make on this subject will be laid hold of by my opponents. Those, however, who know me, will do me the credit to believe, that I am not one who will profess what I will not perform. (Cheers.) I know that a total repeal of the Game Laws is advocated. I have no hesitation in saying that this is not required. I have stated to you in my Address that I would have hares altogether taken out of the Game List. (Applause.) I believe that the preserving of them has

been a source of discontent between landlords and tenants, and that, by the exclusion of them, the principal source of damage would be done away with. (Applause.) Besides this, I would support a measure to facilitate the means of obtaining damages done to the tenant by any other game of any other description. If this were done, with the exclusion of hares from the Game List, we should hear no more of the heart-burnings between landlords and tenants. (Applause.) With regard to education—I think the Government have dealt wisely and liberally with this subject. I think that education should be yet further extended than it is by the Government scheme, with the greatest amount of benefit to all classes. (Applause.) On the subject of religion—I am for the most full and complete toleration that can be given to all sects, and wish that all may be allowed to worship their Creator in the way they think right. It is, I think, impossible to exaggerate the importance of this subject. I am attached to the constitution as it now exists in connexion with Church and State. I consider it as one of those bulwarks of the constitution which form the greatest safeguard against the inroads of Popery. I think no man should suffer civil disabilities on account of his religious persuasion; but I am against any endowment of the Roman Catholic priesthood. (Applause.) On the currency question, I merely wish to say that it is a subject on which the ablest financiers are disagreed in opinion; but I believe it is the general opinion that the old Scotch laws with regard to banking have worked well for the country, and that interference in 1844 was unnecessary. There is one subject which I had forgot—the Law of Hypothec. I know not what may be the opinion here on that subject, but I will state my own, and it remains with you to say if it meets your approbation. My opinion is, that the Law of Hypothec has worked well for the country, and has contributed to place Scotland in a proud position with regard to agriculture, by bringing forward the industry and enterprise of tenantry with small capital, who would otherwise be unable to obtain land. Just now the landlord allows his tenant to cut and sell his crop before he seeks a farthing of rent. Now, as all the heavy burdens on land are payable by the landlord, it is both just and right that he should have some security for his rent, as all other people have some security. When a man goes to a banker to obtain money, he gets it, but he finds security to the banker. I do therefore think that the Law

of Hypothec ought to be continued, though some modification might be made with regard to the laws regulating sales. I am now prepared to answer honestly and truthfully any questions that may be put to me. I am prepared to support her Majesty's Government, as long as they propose measures conducive to the public welfare. I think, so far as we have seen, the present ministers are most likely to govern the country for its prosperity. If I am asked where are the Conservatives? are we to seek them in the ranks of the Protectionists? I tell you it is not in those ranks that I will enlist. (Applause.) I do not look on them as the parties to whom the government of this country can be properly entrusted. (Great applause.) I have to thank you for the kind manner in which I have been received. Should I have the good fortune to secure a majority of your votes—which, from the very flattering manner in which I have been received amongst you, I have every reason to expect—I shall do my endeavour, to the best of my humble abilities, to promote your welfare. (Great applause.)

At the conclusion of Mr Balfour's address,

Mr Deas, advocate, came forward and said he wished to put a few questions to Mr Balfour. He asked—Is it your opinion that the State, which is charged with the power and duty to punish, is likewise charged with the duty to educate, the mass of the people, in useful branches of secular education, and in those great moral truths on which all enlightened men in this country are virtually agreed?

Mr Balfour—Most certainly.

Mr Deas—And that this ought to be provided for at the public expense, in such a manner as may least interfere with, and best excite, voluntary exertions for the same end?

Mr Balfour—Such is my opinion.

Mr Deas—As to the best mode of furnishing religious education, there is of course great difference of opinion. But I presume you have no doubt that, in some way or other, children ought to be educated in the religious principles of their parents?

Mr Balfour—I think children ought to have opportunities of being educated in the religious principles of their parents.

Mr Deas—Is it your opinion that every body of professing Christians ought to be freely allowed the means of

worshipping God according to their conscience ; and consequently that it is an undue exercise of the rights of property to refuse sites for Free churches or Dissenting chapels, in proper situations ?

Mr Balfour—I think there is no landed proprietor who will now refuse a site to any denomination of Christians to worship their Creator as they may think proper. I think the choice of a position ought to be left to the proprietor, but I think he is bound to give one—(applause)—and farther, I think that, in reference to the position, he ought rather to study the wishes of the applicants. (Applause.)

Mr Deas—You have stated that you are opposed to the endowment of the Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland. But are you opposed to all additional endowments to any church whatever ?

Mr Balfour—I think that at present the Established Church has quite sufficient funds to render it useful in all time to come ; and I think, by proper management of the funds which already belong to the church, no additional endowments will be required. I am opposed to any new endowments to any sect whatever.

Mr Deas—You have stated your willingness that hares should be struck out of the Game List. Would you likewise concur in some proper regulation, by which tenants should be secured against loss and injury from pheasants and other game ?

Mr Balfour—I am ready to support any measure brought into Parliament for carrying the principle of protection to the tenant fully and completely into effect.

Mr Deas—Is it your intention, if returned to Parliament, to give a fair, straightforward, and independent support to Lord John Russell's Government, and to aid in carrying out the principles avowed by that Government ?

Mr Balfour—It is. (Applause.)

Mr Deas then craved the indulgence of the meeting to make a few remarks. He did not intend it to be understood, in putting these questions to Mr Balfour, that he (Mr Deas) had pledged himself in any way to support him ; but, having put these questions, he thought it right to say that he was not in a position to support either the honourable gentleman who had just addressed them, or Mr Fergus. He could not forget that there was another gentleman who had long been a supporter of the cause of



reform, and who, with the aid of the reform party to whom he (Mr Deas) had the honour to belong, had carried the county against candidates of the highest character and ability ; and he did not hesitate to say that, if he (Captain Wemyss) again came forward, he should have his support. In reference to Mr Fergus, it was impossible to doubt that he was a very excellent, honourable, and consistent adherent of the Liberal party ; and of course he could not say that any body would be wrong in voting for him. Having heard the address and received the explanations of the honourable gentleman before them, he did not hesitate to say that he was likewise quite deserving of the confidence of the electors of this county. (Cheers and hisses.) He had been somewhat startled by the circumstance that hitherto the honourable gentleman had not avowed in public those principles which he had now stated so strongly ; and it was right that he, standing in the position he occupied, should be satisfied, as he now was, that the honourable gentleman had truly adopted those principles, and that it was his intention to carry them into effect. Sir Robert Peel himself, during the last Parliament, had given a very able, and very consistent, support to the present Government ; and he (Mr Deas) had little doubt that he would continue to do so in the new Parliament. He had been told, but he did not know as to the correctness of the rumour, that Sir Robert Peel meant to vote, as an elector of the city of London, in favour of Lord John Russell. The report, at all events, showed that, on great points of political expediency, there was believed to be no great difference of opinion between Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell. The two great barriers which had hitherto interposed between parties—the question as to the Reform Bill and the question of Free Trade—were now removed, as he presumed there could be no doubt the Reform Bill was seen by the Conservative party to be a safe measure ; and the principles of Free Trade were now acknowledged to be sound, on all hands, except by a few Protectionists ; and these Protectionists themselves have discovered that the Government of the country was equally safe in the hands of Lord J. Russell as of Sir R. Peel. Therefore, what Mr Balfour had done was what numbers were doing every hour—acknowledging their confidence in the Government of Lord John Russell. In these circumstances, if the late honourable member for the county chose to say that he would not stand, his (Mr Deas's) decision would

turn on totally different grounds than the political opinions of the respective candidates, because he was quite satisfied with the opinions of both. He would then ask himself whether a gentleman of great landed property in the county, with youth on his side, and of excellent business habits, was not, on the whole, a more desirable candidate than one who had large engagements of another kind to attend to, requiring all his attention at home, and who, as he had stated, had come forward unwillingly as a candidate? Asking himself this question, his impression was, that he ought to give his support to the honourable gentleman who had first addressed them. (Applause.) He begged a single word in reference to the Game Laws. Nobody could suspect him of any liking to the Game Laws—nor had he any interest in game, never having killed a head of game, nor preserved one, in his life. Mr Balfour's views on the Game Laws was just one of the things which led him (Mr Deas) to prefer Mr Balfour. It was very easy to talk about a total repeal of these laws; but they would talk a long time before they got it. (Hear, hear.) In the first place, the repeal of these laws was impracticable; and, in the next place, it was impossible, without passing a new and complicated law of trespass, which might turn out in many respects worse than the Game Laws themselves. Suppose, however, that a gentleman in the House of Commons were to make a motion that hares should be struck out of the Game List, that was quite a feasible thing, and it would put the sincerity of members to the test. The opinions of the honourable gentleman (Mr Balfour) on this subject were, therefore, to his mind, satisfactory, and better than those of the gentleman who stood out for a total abolition of the Game Laws. Could any body suppose that a Highland landlord, whose grouse were worth £500 or £600 a-year, would submit to his being deprived of them without complaining of a disturbance of the rights of property? or, on the other hand, did any man wish to extirpate partridges, which lived chiefly on insects, and did more good than harm to the farmer in cleaning his land? If hares were struck out of the Game List, the great grievance was removed; whereas, if some such tangible improvement as that was not accepted, they would have no alteration in these laws for twenty or thirty years to come. (Applause.) He wished one word on the Law of Hypothec. His own impression at that moment was, that the doing away of the Law of Hypothec would operate

more against the tenant than against the landlord; because it would be seen that the abolition of such a law would cause the landlord to keep a continual look-out for the tenant's rent, and to put in force the diligence of the law, in the fear that other creditors would come in and put that diligence in force. The benefit arising from this law was, that the landlord, being secure of his rent, allows the tenant a credit that could not reasonably be expected to be allowed on any other footing. A modification of the law, as regards certain kinds of sales in public market, was a different matter; but he thought the present agitation on the part of the tenants against this law a very rash agitation. In making these observations, he begged leave to say again, that he held himself bound in honour and duty to support the honourable gentleman who had long held the representation of this county, should he again come forward; but if he (Mr Deas) was left free, his impression at present was, although he gave no pledge on the subject, in favour of supporting Mr Balfour. (Cheers.)

Mr Balfour then said he had received a letter from a gentleman who was well known in this county, which he was requested to read to the meeting. He read as follows :—

39, Heriot Row,  
Edinburgh, July 28, 1847.

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge your letter requesting my vote. I now write to inform you that I have pledged myself to Mr Fergus.

I was at first undecided as to the candidate I should support—the two addresses being so similar; and I never for a moment gave the slightest credit to those who asserted that you was professing principles which were not your real ones. From my long acquaintance with your character and honour, I knew this was utterly devoid of truth.

But Mr Fergus has turned out during his canvass a much more decided reformer than I at first believed him to be. He has proved himself to be something more than a mere Whig. He has declared himself not only in favour of progressive *organic* reform, but of reducing, immediately, the ten pound qualification in counties to two pounds.

I, therefore, consider his political sentiments to be much more in unison with mine than are yours, which I regard as those of a Conservative Whig, or Russellite. I may

add, that I still hold to the opinion that, if returned, you would make an excellent member, as far as the county business is concerned. So also would Mr Fergus, who has pledged himself, in this case, to allow no private business to interfere with a close attention to his public duties.

I am informed that you are to address a meeting at Cupar to-morrow. If it does not interfere with your arrangements, would you do me the favour to read this letter to the meeting, in order to explain why it is my intention not to vote for you after my letter in the *Scotsman*, which might appear to indicate my intention to vote for you? My dear sir, faithfully yours,

JAMES AYTOUN.

Mr David Scott, St. Andrews, congratulated Mr Balfour on the manner in which he had come through Mr Deas's searching inquiries. He (Mr Scott) was one of the smallest lairds in Fife, but sometimes small things were made to confound great things. He knew Mr Balfour would really perform what he promised. He was aware that some objected to him on account of his youth, but Mr Ellice was younger than him when he commenced; and he could assure Mr Balfour that he would beat Mr Ellice as a speaker. (Laughter.) His reasons for supporting Mr Balfour were far superior to those of Mr Deas. He was an old Reformer, and did not doubt Mr Balfour would be able to carry great reforms in Parliament. Mr Scott then stated his concurrence in the sentiments expressed by Mr Balfour on the Game Laws and the Excise Laws (and to the evils of the Excise Laws he could bear practical testimony from long experience), and concluded by declaring that he (Mr B.) would have his vote, and that he would not turn from him though every voter on earth should do it. (Laughter.)

A show of hands was called for by the Chairman from those who thought Mr Balfour a fit and proper representative. A number of hands were held up; and when a show of hands was proposed from those who were of a contrary opinion, the suggestion was not adopted.

The meeting then broke up.

#### FALKLAND.

Mr Balfour was at Falkland on Friday the 30th July. The band having refused their services, the burgh baton-men, as a sort of substitute, were called out. All attempts to get up a mock demonstration, notwithstanding

the influence of craft, bribery, and corruption, signally failed, and Mr Balfour had to enter the town solitary and alone—

“Deserted at his utmost need,  
By those his former bounty fed.”

During the delivery of his address, Mr Balfour was frequently interrupted by groans, hisses, and derisive laughter. A great number of questions were put to him, but his replies were unsatisfactory and evasive. At the conclusion, a motion disapproving of Mr Balfour's pretensions, and pledging the meeting to aid in returning Mr Fergus, was carried without a dissentient voice. Mr Balfour left amidst terrific hisses and hootings—no doubt resolved to “gang nae mair to yon toun.”

#### AUCHTERMUCHTY.

After having been somewhat unceremoniously treated in Falkland, on the afternoon of the 30th July, Mr Balfour hurried to Auchtermuchty, where he had the instrumental band hired to escort him into the town. Forced, however, to make a more precipitate descent on this place than he had calculated on, the band was not in readiness, and he had to forego the honour he had hoped and paid for. Shortly before six o'clock, the band struck up a tune before the Town Hall, in which it was announced Mr Balfour was to address the electors. It was found impossible, however, to hold the meeting in the hall, as a very large body of the non-electors—men, women, and children—had already assembled. It was accordingly determined to hold the meeting in the open air; and, at six o'clock, Mr Balfour and a few of his friends appeared, and proceeded to a house opposite the town hall, from a window of which he afterwards addressed the meeting. Mr Balfour was received with hisses and hootings from the large assemblage which had congregated, and it was with the utmost difficulty that he could obtain a passage through the crowd.

After Mr Balfour and three or four of his friends had been safely lodged inside of the room, it was announced that Bailie Arnott, chief magistrate of Auchtermuchty, was to take the chair.

Mr Arnott said that it was only from a sense of public duty that he had consented to take the chair on the present occasion. He was a supporter of Mr Fergus—he declared this distinctly and decidedly; and, by his ap-

pearance there, he wished no one to understand that he was a supporter of Mr Balfour. (Loud applause.) He hoped they would give Mr Balfour a patient and a candid hearing. He begged again distinctly to state, that he was a supporter of Mr John Fergus out and out; but he also affirmed that Mr Balfour was a gentleman entitled to be heard. He begged, therefore, they would listen to him with patience, and then judge afterwards for themselves as to the soundness of his opinions. (Loud cheers.)

Mr Balfour then presented himself, and was received with a storm of disapprobation. He proceeded to deliver an address, similar in all respects to the one he delivered at Cupar.

At the conclusion of the address, the chairman said he hoped any questions that might be put, would be put civilly and as honourable men ought to do, and he was sure that Mr Balfour would answer them fairly.

Mr Skinner, an elector, then asked when Mr Balfour became a supporter of her Majesty's Ministers?

Mr Balfour—I became a supporter of her Majesty's Government whenever their measures were such as were for the benefit of the country. (Laughter.)

Mr Skinner—Who are the parties who have invited you to stand as a candidate for the representation of the county?

Mr Balfour—I come forward as an independent man, belonging to no party, and wishing to receive no man's vote but that of him who chooses to give it to me. (Loud disapprobation, and cheers from the friends in the room.) I have been asked frequently within the past twelvemonth to stand for the county.

Mr Skinner—Will you support a motion for the abolition of the duty on foreign corn for that portion of the three years not expired?

Mr Balfour—I think that question has been finally settled. I do not see any probability of the duty being again imposed; but I should be sorry to disturb the question as it now rests. (Applause.)

Mr Skinner—Would you vote for a bill empowering tenants to destroy any game that came on their lands?

Mr Balfour—Not to destroy all game that came on their lands. I put hares out of the Game List, then they may destroy them. (Hisses.)

Mr Skinner—What injury have the Game Laws caused?

Mr Balfour—Do you mean to the crops or to the moral condition of the people?

Mr Skinner—To the moral condition of the people.

Mr Balfour—I think, so far, they have been a temptation to crime; but I also think those inclined to poach are people who have no inclination to be industriously employed otherwise. (Hisses from the meeting, and applause from the friends in the room.)

By a person whose name we could not learn—Would you vote for an extension of the franchise?

Mr Balfour—I think the franchise is at present sufficiently extended. (This answer was received with a vehement burst of disapprobation, and the uproar was only put an end to by the chairman's interference, who suggested that they had already manifested their disapprobation quite enough.)

A Voice—Would you carry out the principles of Free Trade to their fullest extent?

Mr Balfour—Certainly. Now that we have Free Trade in corn, we should have it in everything else, as far as practicable. It must be done cautiously, but I think it is a principle that must be carried out. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Skinner—What reason can the hon. gentleman give for thinking that the franchise is already far enough extended?

Mr Balfour—I think it is far enough extended at present, so far as I have had an opportunity of judging. I have been personally canvassing a great many of you, and I think if the franchise was extended, I should have a great many more to canvass, and then I should have much harder work of it. (Laughter.) I think any man of good education can obtain a ten-pound qualification now if he chooses to work for it—(confusion)—and if it is not worth working for, it is not worth having. (Continued hootings.) I say that, very likely, as education advances, the franchise may be extended. I don't preach the doctrine of the finality of the Reform Act; but I say that if a qualification is not worth working for, it is not worth having. (Renewed confusion.)

A Voice—Did you work for it?

Mr Balfour—I am working for something now that I hope I shall get. (Hisses.)

Mr Halley then said that he was a non-elect, and he begged to ask if Mr Balfour would answer any questions that he put to him.

Mr Balfour—Certainly.

The Chairman hoped the meeting would hear what passed between the two gentlemen with patience and decorum.

Mr Halley—Would you vote for the unexhausted and bishops' teinds being applied to provide for national education, religious instruction to be left to the parents and their clergymen, and the schools to be under the management of local boards elected by the inhabitants?

Mr Balfour—I will answer generally that I am not in favour of alienating any property that the church possesses from religious purposes.

Mr Halley—Would you support a measure for taking parish schools from under the control of Presbyteries, and placing them under the management of local boards?

Mr Balfour—I think the parochial system of education has worked well in Scotland, hitherto, and I would not be disposed to alter it.

Mr Halley—Would you support a measure for empowering Government to regulate the rates of fares for railway traffic, so as to prevent too high charges being made, providing that Government would not make such reductions in the rates as would lower the dividend below 5 per cent. on the original value of the shares? (A voice "That's a feeler.")

Mr Balfour—I am against the interference of Government with railways in any way; but I think it is the duty, as it is the object, of railway proprietors to give the fullest and cheapest accommodation to the public in the locality through which the railway runs.

Mr Halley—Then you would not support such a measure.

Mr Balfour was also questioned as to refusing sites for churches, Sunday trains, &c., but as the same questions were put at Kirkaldy on Saturday, it is not necessary to repeat the answers given on both occasions.

Mr Halley—Would you have supported the bill, if you had been in Parliament, for creating additional bishops in England?

Mr Balfour—I should have done so, because it was merely an arrangement for a different application of the Church funds.

Mr Halley—You stated in your address that you were sincerely attached to our Protestant constitution. Do you recognise the Church of England at present as a Protestant Church?



Mr Balfour—I do.

Mr Halley—It is a fact that the great majority of the clergymen of the Church of England are Puseyites, and it is another fact that great numbers of them are leaving her communion and going to the Church of Rome. Here is one advantage of a state church—that she nurses up adherents to a different creed altogether, and that creed opposed to the constitution of the country. (Applause.) You have stated in your address that you wish every man to give an independent vote. I suppose you disapprove of all interference in elections by canvassing and using undue influence with electors?

Mr Balfour—I do.

Mr Halley—Are you aware that persons of influence have been canvassing dependent electors on your behalf, and even treating them?

Mr Balfour—The other party are canvassing also, and I think it is quite fair. Both parties have the same liberty. (Disapprobation.)

A Voice—There is not so much bribery on the other side.

Mr Balfour—I hope not. (This *lapsus lingue* of Mr Balfour occasioned much merriment.)

Mr Halley—As you are a friend to independent voting, and opposed to the use of all improper influence with the electors, would you accept of a vote obtained by such means?

Mr Balfour—I would not.

Mr Halley was quite willing to admit that it was a perfectly just and legitimate way of canvassing to come openly and honestly before the constituency, as Mr Balfour had that night done; that was one way of canvassing, but there was another way sometimes resorted to—the practice of sending the laird's factor, and servants, and tools, amongst the constituency, and of getting a few friends snugly seated in a room, and then resorting to intimidation and cajollery to secure their votes. (Loud applause.) But Mr Balfour was an honourable and high-minded gentleman, and would scorn to resort to such tricks; but, nevertheless, it would be satisfactory were he to say that he would publish an address in the local newspapers, deprecating such vicious interference with voters. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers.) Mr Halley wished to know if Mr Balfour would do that?

Mr Balfour—I only wish to obtain independent votes,

and I quarrel with no man for the way he votes, whether it be for me or against me.

Mr Cousins—Would you vote for the ballot?

Mr Balfour—I would not. The man who is ashamed to show how he votes, does not deserve to have a vote.

Mr Halley—In re-considering the system of taxation, would you support a proposal to levy legacy-duty from landed, the same as upon other descriptions of property?

Mr Balfour—I am not prepared to answer that question. If returned to Parliament, I will give the whole question of taxation my best consideration; but I am not inclined to give any opinion on the point raised just now.

Mr Halley—Would Mr Balfour support a measure to render Dissenters eligible for the office of parochial schoolmasters?

Mr Balfour—No.

This having concluded the questioning, Mr Skinner moved that Mr Balfour was not a fit and proper person to represent the county of Fife in Parliament, which having been seconded,

Mr Halley shortly addressed the meeting in support of it. He briefly reviewed Mr Balfour's principles and position, and concluded by declaring his conviction that Mr Balfour was not yet fit to be the representative of the county.

A show of hands was then taken, when almost the whole meeting appeared to be in favour of the motion that Mr Balfour was not qualified to represent the county.

On the motion of Mr Balfour, a vote of thanks was given to the chairman.

At the conclusion, Mr Balfour and his party attempted to walk in procession from the place of meeting to the inn, headed by the band, but they had not proceeded many paces before their ranks were broken, and each had to find his way as he best could, amid the hootings of the crowd, who took their station at the door of the inn, awaiting Mr Balfour's departure. Bailie Arnott and Mr Halley severally addressed the crowd, entreating them not to offer violence to any man, however different his opinions might be from their own. Some time afterwards, Mr Fergus's committee having provided a passage, Mr Balfour entered his carriage, and hastened to Strathmiglo, followed by the hisses and hootings of the crowd, which then dispersed.

## STRATHMIGLO.

Shortly after the close of the proceedings at Auchtermuchty, Mr Balfour appeared in Strathmiglo, the inhabitants of which place, invited by proclamation by the town-crier, had assembled in considerable numbers to hear Mr B. state his political opinions. In this, however, they were disappointed, for the hon. gentleman, having mounted the stairs leading to the Town Hall, without making any speech, at once requested any person who wished to put questions to him to come forward; and as no one appeared disposed to do so, he again entered his carriage, and drove off at the same rapid pace at which he had arrived.

## KIRKALDY.

As at other places, Mr Balfour's appearance at Kirkaldy was most unhappy. On the afternoon of Saturday the 31st July, he held a meeting in the Town Hall, which was entirely filled by the agriculturists of the district, and by others. On the motion of Mr Balfour, Pilmuir, Mr John Haig, Cameron Distillery, was called to the chair.

Mr Haig, immediately after taking the chair, said he had now the honour to rise to propose Mr Balfour as a fit and proper person to serve this county in Parliament. (Disapprobation.) He was known to the most of them in this district, and it was principally as a county gentleman that they did know him. This was the first time he had ever come before the public in a political point of view. He (the chairman) had such letters in his pocket on Excise Reform as had satisfied him that Mr Balfour was a safe man for their cause. Having made this remark on this important subject—for it was the Excise Reformers who had carried the Edinburgh election—he would leave it to the hon. candidate himself to bring under their notice the various subjects which would be discussed in the next Parliament. He begged to propose Mr Balfour as a fit and proper person to represent the county. (Hisses, partial applause, and cries of "No, no," from all parts of the meeting.)

Mr Balfour rose in the midst of the confusion, and proceeded to the delivery of his address. It was in no way distinguished from the others he has delivered, except in so far as it furnished more evident proofs than any of the others of the sad truth, which the hon. candidate him-

self declared, that "he could pretend to no flowers of eloquence or oratory."

When Mr Balfour had concluded, the Chairman asked if any gentleman had any questions to propose, when

Mr Greig, late of Claydales, came forward, and said he wished to put one. He was quite satisfied as to Mr Balfour's honesty, but still he had not had his (Mr Greig's) experience. He had not suffered from the ravages of game and rabbits. He (Mr Greig) had not pledged himself to any political party, but he was not ashamed to say he was a Conservative. He had long been a tenant under perhaps the most tyrannical of game preservers that ever breathed the breath of life—and he was not afraid to mention the name of Captain Wemyss. These Game Laws must be erased from the statute-book——

The Chairman (interrupting) said, the gentleman was delivering himself of an argument, and not putting a question.

Mr Greig—Then I will put a question. Do you or do you not interfere with your tenants in giving their votes?

Mr Balfour—I do not.

Mr Greig—Did you influence your factor? (Cries of "Hear, hear.")

Mr Balfour—Did I influence my factor? I don't know what you mean. I hope my factor is influenced in a way most favourable to me. (Laughter and hisses.)

Mr Greig—Do you influence anybody on your behalf?

Mr Balfour—I beg again to say that I come forward as an independent man, and I have stated my principles honestly and faithfully.

Mr Greig was proceeding to make some further remarks on the Game Laws, amid cries of "Chair, chair," when,

The Chairman stopped him, and said—As no one seems inclined to come forward, I presume you are all satisfied with Mr Balfour. Three cheers for him! (This unwarrantable proceeding of the Chairman was the signal for disapprobation from all parts of the room, and he was obliged again to resume his seat.)

Mr Wilson, Blacketyside—You speak of excluding hares from the Game List. Have you had any complaints from your tenants as to their ravages?

Mr Balfour—I think I have had complaints from one or two of them, but that is a private matter between ourselves. (Disapprobation.)

Mr Wilson—How do you dispose of your game? Do you sell it?

Mr Balfour—I have sold it in some cases.

Mr Wilson—Do you give the money you get for it to your tenants?

Mr Balfour—I have in some cases.

By a gentleman whose name we could not learn—Are you inclined to extend the franchise?

Mr Balfour—I think at present the franchise is sufficiently extended. (Hisses.)

In answer to a question, Mr Balfour said he did not consider it necessary to have even a modification of the law of primogeniture at present.

Mr D. W. Henderson, corn merchant, wished to know if Mr Balfour would answer a question put by a non-elect, to which Mr Balfour replied in the affirmative.

Mr Henderson—I think, so far as I can observe, that the reply Mr Balfour gave at Cupar to Mr Deas's question as to toleration is quite in accordance with my own sentiments, and the general intelligence of the country. (A laugh.) I wish to know, if he recognises the principle he there avowed, whether he refused to grant sites to the Markinch and Kinglassie congregations, and on what principle? (Loud applause.)

Mr Balfour—I have never been applied to for any sites whatever in my position as a proprietor.

Mr Henderson—Was you ever applied to for a site?

Mr Balfour—I was once applied to for a feu in Kinglassie, which I refused, but it was not stated it was a site for a Free Church.

Mr Henderson—Were you aware it was intended in any way as a place of worship? (Cries of "Chair, chair," from a few of Mr Balfour's friends.)

Mr Balfour—I have no ground in Markinch that was ever applied for in such a way. When I was applied to for the feu in Kinglassie, I did not know it was as a site for a Free Church. I do not mean to conceal that, at the time of the Disruption, I was unfavourable to the views of the Free Church, but I do think they ought to have toleration in every way, and, I believe, I have never made the slightest difference to any man on account of his religious faith. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Henderson—It is generally believed that Mr Balfour was the principal party in getting a Free Church schoolmaster put out of the school at Markinch. Is that a fact?

Mr Balfour—There is a school at Markinch, which I endow myself, at which my colliers' children and any others are educated. The schoolmaster left me of his own accord, to go to a Free Church school in Markinch.

Mr Henderson—Did you compel him to go?

Mr Balfour—I did not compel him in any way.

Mr Henderson—What is your present practice on your own estate as to game preserving? Is it a fact that you are in the habit of sending game to Edinburgh and other places for sale?

Mr Balfour—That question was put before, and I stated that I had on some occasions sold game, but I give a great deal more of it away.

Mr Henderson—Have you lately, within the last few months, when your opinions changed, carried out your sentiments in excluding hares from the list of game? (Hear, hear.)

Mr Balfour—I am not aware that the Game Laws are at present repealed. (Disapprobation.) This is a question between myself and my tenants, to be settled in a private room. (Hisses.)

Mr Henderson—As people generally look to practice before theory, I wish to know whether you have acted on your professions since changing your opinions. Have you excluded hares from your game list?

Mr Balfour—I don't think my tenants will approve of my going into their fields at present in search of game. (Hisses.) You cannot kill a hare just now, it is against the law. (Laughter.)

By a gentleman in the room—In parishes where there is only one proprietor, and therefore where no site can be obtained but from him, and he remains determined to refuse one, would you, if returned, support such a bill as Mr Fox Maule formerly brought in for compelling such sites to be given?

Mr Balfour—I think that the last report of the Site Committee ought to be satisfactory. In as far as the bill goes to compel proprietors to part with their property, I would not support such a bill. (Hisses.)

By the questioner—Then the rights of conscience are inferior to those of the railroad. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Thomas Russell, engineer, wished to know Mr Balfour's opinion on the Sunday trains question.

Mr Balfour—As I am Chairman of the Edinburgh and Northern Railway Company, that is a question which

is to me a very important one. I beg to tell you that I state my own opinions alone ; opinions which, I may say, are concurred in by the most of the court over whom I have the honour to preside. The question of Sabbath desecration is one which had occupied our very serious attention. It is a difficult question to deal with, and you are all aware that the directors of a railway company are, in their situation, at the will of the shareholders, and, therefore, anything that they propose is always subject to the approval of the shareholders. I think the accommodation on Sunday should be as limited as possible, and restricted to works of necessity and mercy. I think there should be a train each way every Sunday morning and evening, with two carriages from each class, to accommodate those who are obliged to travel on Sunday.

The Chairman (after a pause) said the meeting seemed to be satisfied with Mr Balfour's answers. He begged to propose that he was a fit and proper person to serve the county in Parliament. Three cheers for him! (Cheers from a few friends, and hisses from all the others in the meeting.)

The Chairman was making his way out of the chair, when loud cries of "Put the motion," were raised, and he was compelled to take a show of hands. About eight or nine hands were held up for Mr Balfour, amidst hisses and ironical applause; and, when a vote was taken for Mr Fergus (not by the Chairman), a forest of hands was exhibited. The defeat was disgraceful, and the triumph complete.

Mr Balfour, after acknowledging that he was in the enemy's country, thanked the meeting for its attention and courtesy, and moved a vote of thanks to Mr Haig for so ably discharging the duties of the chair.

Thanks being given, the meeting broke up.

#### LEVEN.

According to announcement in large placards, widely circulated in the locality, Mr Balfour arrived in Leven, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Mr Edward Ellice, M.P., at ten minutes before six, P.M., on Saturday the 31st July, to address the electors. Although, from statements previously made by his party, it was expected that he was to appear in grand style in Leven, Mr B. alighted quietly at Crawford's inn, and shortly afterwards issued from thence, along with Mr Fernie, Kilmux, Major

Anderson, and Mr David Normand, brewer, Kennoway, to the Gardeners' Hall, where a *very few* individuals were assembled. The numbers, however, increased as the time wore on, and by and by the two side forms of the room were filled. Mr John Jackson, late captain in the 4th Foot, usually resident in London, but who happened to be in Leven at the sea-bathing, was called to the chair.

Mr Balfour then proceeded to state his political principles, which were just an echo of what he stated at Cupar and Kirkaldy. After having finished, the Chairman said—Gentlemen, you have now heard the candidate, John Balfour of Balbirnie. If any elector or non-electors has any questions to put, he is at perfect liberty to do so.

Mr Ellice, a non-electors—not Mr Ellice, the Member for the St. Andrews Burghs—then stepped forward, and put the following questions :—

Mr Ellice—Would you support a measure for the extension of the suffrage, and what is your opinion on that subject?

Mr Balfour—My opinion is, that the suffrage is sufficiently extended at present, and I would not support any alteration thereof.

Mr Ellice—Supposing a bill pending in Parliament, and suppose a majority of the electors of this county were to ask you to assist in getting such a bill passed into a law, and that your opinion was against such a bill, would you support the prayer of the electors' petition, or would you follow your own private opinion?

Mr Balfour—I would not go to Parliament under any pledge, and I would reserve liberty for myself to follow my own judgment in any matters that might be brought into Parliament. (Hisses.)

Mr Ellice—So, Mr Balfour, you seek to represent this county, and yet you say you will not represent it, in the event of your being returned to Parliament. (Roars of laughter.)

Mr Ellice—I have one other question—What is your opinion in regard to the present Protestant Church in Ireland?

Mr Balfour—My opinion is, if I may use the expression, that the numbers of that Church are not equal to the revenues; still I am not prepared to support a measure for the application of any of the revenues of that Church to any other purpose.



Mr Ellice—Mr Chairman, I have a proposition to make, will you allow me to put it to the meeting?

The Chairman looked about in a state of the utmost helplessness, Banker Wood, from Colinsburgh, telling him not to put it. After the exhibition of a state of most ridiculous indecision and bewilderment, Mr Balfour himself interfered, and stated that he had no objection to the proposition being made and put.

Mr Ellice—Then, Mr Chairman, I have to propose that this meeting is of opinion that Mr Fergus is best qualified to represent this county in Parliament.

The proposition was put and carried by loud and continued acclamation.

It is seldom a public meeting has given so much satisfaction, and afforded so much merriment, to the good folks of Leven as this one did. Altogether the scene was irresistible. The "small beer" looked so blank, the Chairman so "wandering," and the would-be Member so wan and wo-begone, that we only regretted that Cruickshanks had not been present, that he might have added one more scene to his stock of the ludicrous.

#### FERRY-PORT-ON-CRAIG.

On Monday evening the 2d August, Mr Balfour visited this village for the purpose of explaining his political sentiments to the electors. The "navies" employed on the railway were *ordered* to leave their work about five o'clock, and they, accompanied by a hired band of music and two flags, proceeded to meet him. Of course, the navies would get full payment for a day's work, at least, though they were on short time. A little distance from the village the horses were taken out of his carriage, and their places taken by the navies, certainly a very *high-bred* and honourable kind of cattle. Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting a chairman, but after having met several decided refusals, they succeeded in procuring a railway understrapper or expectant to take that position, *at the nod of Mr Balfour's electioneering agent*—unproposed and unseconded.

As for Mr B.'s speech, it was as near as might be a stereotyped edition of the one he delivered at Cupar, with the exception of the first portion being omitted, and a simile made betwixt *railways* and Free Trade. Several questions were then put to him, but, upon the whole, the answers were given with hesitation; they were very vague and unsatisfactory, and often displayed a profound ignorance

regarding the matters to which the questions referred. At the conclusion, the above-mentioned *bona fide* chairman proposed three cheers for Mr Balfour, but only *one* faint cheer was heard, mingled with hisses, groans, and laughter. The meeting broke up amidst loud cheers, repeated for the third time, for Mr Fergus.

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## NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES.

(From the *Fife Herald* of August 12.)

The nomination of candidates for the representation of the County took place at Cupar on Friday, 5th August. At an early hour the town presented an animated appearance, heightened by the arrival at intervals of bands of instrumental music from many of the villages in the county. Shortly before twelve o'clock, the two candidates—John Fergus, Esq. of Strathore, and John Balfour, Esq. of Balbirnie, entered the town. Mr. Balfour quietly drove his carriage to the inn, but the reception given to Mr Fergus was of the most enthusiastic description. When his carriage had entered within the precincts of the burgh, the horses were unyoked, and Mr Fergus was drawn through the street, amid the most deafening plaudits of the multitude, accompanied by several of the bands, and a number of the people bearing banners.

Hustings were erected on the School-hill, and thither the multitude repaired. There could not be less than 3500 or 4000 persons present.

Shortly before twelve o'clock, Mr Robert F. Gourlay appeared on the hustings, and distributed a number of papers, being the addresses which he has recently published to the electors of Fife, and other documents.

At twelve o'clock, Mr Balfour made his appearance on the hustings, and was assailed with hisses and hootings from the assemblage, with some faint cheering. He was accompanied by Sir H. Bethune of Kilconquhar, Mr John Haig, distiller, Cameron Bridge, Mr Gillespie Smith of Gibliston, Captain Oswald of Dunikier, Mr Simpson of Pitcorthie, &c. &c.

Shortly afterwards, the cheers of the assembly announced the approach of Mr Fergus, accompanied by Colonel Ferguson, M.P. for the Kirkaldy Burghs, Sir David Brewster, Mr Wilson of Glassmont, Mr Kinnear of

Kinloch, Mr Carswell of Rathillet, Mr Ireland, banker, St. Andrews, Mr George Anderson, banker, Kirkaldy, and others of his friends.

Mr Sheriff Monteith, after reading the writ and the act against bribery, said he was sure that, when he addressed himself to the electors of Fife, it was unnecessary to say one word as to the propriety of hearing the parties on both sides with perfect fairness and with perfect silence and decorum. (Applause.) He now asked any elector if he had any person to nominate as a knight to serve the county of Fife in Parliament.

Captain Oswald of Dunikier said he had much pleasure in proposing John Balfour, Esq. of Balbirnie—(groans and hisses)—as a fit and proper representative for this great county in Parliament. His principles were already known to the most of them in the address he had issued—(hisses)—and since that time he had personally waited on the electors to explain to them his sentiments with regard to the great measures which might be expected to attract the attention of the ensuing Parliament. (A voice—"What do they ca' ye?") Mr B. had always been most anxious to attend to the local interests of the county as a large proprietor, and he could assure them that, if through their kindness he was placed at the head of the poll—(hisses)—he would give such due attention to their interests that they would have every reason to be proud of their member. (Loud disapprobation and partial cheers.) He begged therefore to propose Mr Balfour as a fit and proper representative of this great county in Parliament. (Loud hisses and hootings, and some applause.)

Mr John Haig, Cameron Bridge, then stepped forward, and was received with disapprobation, and loud cries of "Weet your whistle before you begin," "Tak' aff your whiskers," &c. He said—I have great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mr Balfour as a fit and proper person to serve this county in Parliament. (Groans.) As has already been stated, Mr Balfour had continued to live on his own private estate—(a voice—"He should have stopped there")—without ever mixing himself with politics or public matters at all. It is very lately, indeed, that he has taken any share in any sort of public business whatever; but what he has undertaken since he came into public life he has carried forward in a way which met the approbation of all connected with it. I allude more particularly to his connexion with the great railway which is

now going on—(hisses)—where he has shown himself an excellent man of business, qualified for performing the duties which he had undertaken. But it may be asked, what qualification is that for a member of Parliament for a great county like this? (Hear, hear.) Have patience and I will tell you. A man that acts well in one way may be expected to do it in another. (Loud hisses and interruptions.) We are twitted and told that Mr Balfour is an untried man. No man is born a representative—(“He’ll need to be born again”)—he must begin sometime, otherwise what would be the use of an election here to-day? (Groans.) Again, we are twitted about his recent conversion to what is conceived to be a new line of politics. (Great confusion.) Have patience and I’ll speak to you of this. (Laughter.) You all know the great changes which have taken place in the country in regard to many persons’ views as to politics. No doubt Mr Balfour was raised in a state of society—he mingled in the society of friends who have all along held Conservative principles; and I believe that Mr Balfour thought as little of politics, in that state of quietness, as I myself then did. (Hisses and laughter.) It is only now that he has turned his attention more particularly to those things, and to matters that concern the welfare of his native county. (Considerable confusion.) Now, when he has turned his attention to these matters, he sees that the system he must follow after is that of the reform of all tangible abuses. (A voice—“Put down your hat.”) Oh, yes, I’ll put down my hat. It will be seen from his address that he is anxious to reform all real practical abuses. Here is his address. (“Oh, we’ve a’ seen it; it’s no muckle worth.”) I would beg to refer to his printed address, and to the addresses he has delivered more recently to different portions of the constituency, and to the answers which he has given to the numerous questions which have been put. In these addresses he has declared his determination to rectify abuses which at present prevail. He first declares his intention to support her Majesty’s Ministers, who had grappled so successfully with the question of education in England. Is that not a question of importance to you all? (Hisses.) Until such time as the people are thoroughly educated, all practical reforms must be kept back. Educate the people; and the sooner that is done the better. (“The sooner you’re done the better; drop it now.”) Another subject to which Mr Balfour is to give his support,

is the amelioration of the condition of the working classes. ("Muckle he's dune for them.") Her Majesty's Ministers have striven strongly for the attainment of this object, and you will see they will succeed admirably. ("It'll no be wi' his help.") Another question was that of the Corn Laws. ("Nae thanks to him.") Here is Mr Balfour, a large landed proprietor, professing his determination to oppose these laws. ("Oh, after his vote's no worth; nae credit to him.") He also advocates freedom of trade in everything, and I agree with him there. ("Ah! the whisky!") He is not a mere external free trader, but is determined to carry Free Trade to the utmost. The whole system of taxation must be remodelled, so as to—make—this country—(Cries of "He's stammering awfu'!" and confusion, which rendered the conclusion of the sentence inaudible.) I allude more particularly to a question which is now very much agitated, the Excise regulations. (Groans and hisses.) Take it as you will, but I shall not dwell on that subject, as both candidates are at one in regard to it. Mr Balfour, again, comes forward on the Game Laws—"Ah, the hares, poor beasties!"—and he has offered to keep out the hares. (Laughter and a cry of "We'll get hare broth now.") I don't say but that in many respects Mr Balfour and I may differ in regard to this question; but, in the position in which he is, I say he is excessively liberal. (Groans, accompanied with great laughter.) I would recommend my landed friends, generally, to be more liberal in the exercise of the regulations relating to game, and not to deal harshly in the exercise of their right. (Hear, hear.) I beg to state that I am perfectly free; I come here this day to support no man. ("That'll no do.") I come wishing to find a man who would carry out the principles which I conceive to be right, and I think I see in Mr Balfour one who will advocate those principles. (Disapprobation.) Mr Balfour is the largest proprietor in this county. ("He's nane the better o' that.") He is strongly connected with it; and I think he is in every way qualified to act as its representative. (Hisses.) I have detained you too long. ("Stick in aye.") I have only to propose that Mr Balfour is a fit and proper person to represent this county in Parliament. (The speaker concluded amidst a storm of hootings and groans.)

Colonel Ferguson, M.P., then came forward, and was received with tremendous applause. He said—I have the

honour to appear before you for the purpose of proposing John Fergus, Esq. of Strathore—(loud applause)—as a fit and proper representative of this county in Parliament. (Continued cheering.) I am happy to propose him, because I know and feel that he is qualified in every respect for this trust. He has explained to the constituency his opinions—opinions in which I heartily concur. (Cheers.) I shall, therefore, only state, in a few words, the grounds on which I support Mr Fergus, and on which, I hope, the constituency will support him. (Loud and long continued cheering.) In the first place, Mr Fergus has a large stake in the county. He is a man of business, and therefore he will be able, as he is willing, to attend to the interests of the constituency. (Continued applause.) He is connected both with the landed and the commercial interest, and, though last, not least, he has always been a firm, consistent, and progressive reformer. (Loud applause.) If I were to allude to his private character, I might say, Where will you find a more excellent or a more generous man—(renewed applause)—and you need only look to his establishments, to the people in his employment—observe how they are attended to, and how cared for, and that not only with regard to their bodily comforts, but also to their education and mental improvement. (Loud cheering.) If he conducts himself so fairly and honestly to those in his employment, surely we may expect that he will behave equally honestly and fairly to the constituency which I hope he will represent—(continued and enthusiastic applause)—and therefore I need only refer to what was stated by the worthy seconder of the other candidate, that his friend was a new—(A voice—"New-born baby")—a new convert. In proposing Mr Fergus, I do it not knowing whether there is any other candidate to propose; but now that there are two proposed—the one, as we have been told (for I am not using my own words), a new convert to those principles which he professes—the other, during the whole of his life, a constant advocate of free trade principles and progressive reform, I cannot hesitate in giving my support to the latter; and I shall therefore conclude by again proposing Mr Fergus as a fit and proper person to represent the county of Fife. (Loud applause, which lasted for some time.)

Mr Wilson of Glassmont then said—Gentlemen, I come forward to second the nomination of Mr Fergus, who has just been proposed as a fit and proper person to

represent this county in Parliament. I do so because the political sentiments expressed by Mr Fergus in his address are those which I myself entertain ; I do so because I believe the great majority of the electors of this county participate in such opinions ; and, above all, I second his nomination with feelings of satisfaction and confidence, because the principles which Mr Fergus now advocates are those which he has always maintained, and have not been assumed on a sudden emergency from motives of personal ambition or a desire for political power. Mr Fergus assisted in the struggle which ended in the triumph of Parliamentary Reform, and is now desiring to extend the forty-shilling franchise, which the best-conditioned of the English peasantry now enjoy, to the same, but much better educated, class in Scotland. (Loud cheers.) He has proved himself to be a consistent, and, at the same time, a safe Reformer. (Applause.) He was a fellow-worker with the Cobdens and Brights in their labours of Corn Law repeal—(cheers)—and, in removing the feudal fetters of Entail, he is only applying the principles of Free Trade to the landed property of the country. (Loud applause.) The extended right of Hypothec, which confers an odious privilege upon the landlord, to the prejudice of the farmer, because it prevents him from borrowing money to improve his land on the same advantageous terms as other traders, is a remnant of class legislation, which all who belong to the same school of politicians as Mr Fergus might desire to see abolished. (Cheers.) He (Mr F.) has never been a game-preserver nor a game-seller—(laughter and cheers)—and therefore his declaration that the Game Laws ought to be entirely abolished is consistent with his long cherished opinions, and, what is of more importance, with his practice. There is only one new doctrine which Mr Fergus has admitted into his political creed, and the conduct of the Tory landlords of Fife has compelled him to adopt it. Mr Fergus, in the course of his tour throughout the county to address the electors, has become cognisant of so many instances in which intimidation and coercion have been resorted to by the proprietors to influence the voting of their tenantry, that he is now satisfied that the protection of the ballot is required to enable that dependent class to exercise their franchise with independence and impunity. This single innovation you will readily excuse, when you consider that Mr Balfour's opinions are all new, their origin being

referable to a recent Saturday, when his political creed underwent a marvellous revolution in the town of Kirkaldy, between the hours of twelve and one. (A voice—"Paul's conversion," laughter and applause.) Yes, Mr Balfour appears on these boards in the character of Reformer and Free Trader, and within a hundred yards, too, of that hall in which, up to the last moment of the existence of the Corn Laws, he denounced their repeal as a measure fraught with ruin to the country. I know Mr Balfour has made his recantation, but I know, at the same time, that such a recantation as his cannot insure a public man from the infliction of political martyrdom. (Continued applause.) And what do I now see? a Liberal surrounded by Tories—a Free Trader environed by Protectionists. Undoubtedly, in order to give dramatic effect to his performance, he has studied the part of Iago; and, having become enamoured of the character, has adopted this confession for his motto, "I am not what I am." (Great applause.) Mr Balfour's assumption of the character of Reformer seems as ridiculous as the conduct of Claverhouse would have appeared to his contemporaries, had he stopped short in the midst of his persecutions, and professed a veneration for the Covenant. I have only one subject more to allude to, and it is one to which I, as a Dissenter, attach much importance. Mr Balfour has on more than one occasion, in reply to questions asked at his district meetings, expressly stated that, in the event of his being returned to Parliament, he would not support any bill compelling landlords to grant sites for churches; because he regarded as sacred the rights of property. Now, gentlemen, I, as a Free Churchman, cannot regard a man who maintains such an opinion as entitled to call himself a friend of religious liberty. (Cheers.) I have to apologise for having detained you so long, and to thank you for the patient hearing you have given me; and I now conclude by again seconding the nomination of Mr Fergus.

Mr Robert Fleming Gourlay rose amid great cheering to address the electors. He said that that was the second time that he had appeared before them to become their representative. (Cheers and loud laughter.) He had appeared fifteen years ago. It had been bruited abroad that if any elector proposed him, he would be liable for a part of the expense, and he begged to deny it. They would be liable to no expense at all. He had been abroad



for more than nineteen years, and, during the time he had been away, his rights had been taken from him in America, and his estates taken from him here. He would not dwell on that subject, and if no elector would propose him as a member for the county, he would do it himself. (Laughter.) As to the Corn Laws he would not speak. (A voice—"What about the Game Laws?") Mr Gourlay would dispose of them in one breath. (Laughter.) But he thought the Legislature should look to the Colonies—they would need them yet, for the mother country would be in a dreadful state of distress in a few years. He could take away the Poor's-rates from the people, and he could pay off the national debt. Could any of the other candidates do so? Mr Gourlay having proposed himself as a fit and proper person to represent the county, said that he was glad that the assemblage were so good natured, and he would now leave them with the best humour possible.

Sheriff Monteith having asked if there were any other candidates to be proposed, and none appearing,

Mr Balfour came forward, hat in hand, and, smiling to all around him, was received with mingled cheers, hisses, and groans, from the assemblage. He said he would not detain them long —

Sheriff Monteith—Allow me to ask you to give him a fair hearing. (Much confusion.)

Mr Balfour resumed—He wished to thank those gentlemen who had come forward to propose him. (Cheers and hisses.) It was a high and an honourable situation that he aspired to; but if there was anything in his opinions that should deter him from coming forward as their candidate, he would at once retire. But he begged to speak more particularly on the topics that had been spoken of by his friend—for he was proud to call him so. He had said that on all occasions he (Mr Balfour) had refused to support a bill to compel proprietors to grant sites for churches; but he begged to say that his maxim was, that there should be liberty to all denominations. He considered that the report of the Site Committee—which had been published, and which he had no doubt they had all read—was right when it said that a legislative enactment on the subject was unnecessary; and he hoped that none would refuse to grant sites. He had that faith in the gentlemen of the county and the country that they would grant sites without an act compelling them to do so. He

would only say that a seat in Parliament might have been got with far less trouble. (A voice—"Say less expense.") Those who knew him were aware that he was honest and conscientious in his opinions, and there was nothing in his address that he would not carry through. He held that the repeal of the Corn Law was a wise measure, and should not now be disturbed. He was aware that his opponent and him did not agree in all things—he would go farther than he (Mr Balfour) would. (A voice—"Gie it up.") He would give it up very soon. He was disposed to support her Majesty's present Ministers because he thought they were likely to be able to carry out their measures. Their measure for the education of the people was a good one, and likely to do a great deal of good. It was calculated to promote and encourage private exertions for the promotion of education. (Cries of "What about Geordie Deas?") He thought Government, which had the power and duty to punish, should also have the power to educate. He was sure that good would result from the proposal of Government on this subject; and he therefore wished the measure much success, which he was fully persuaded would attend it. (Cries of "Geordie's the boy," hisses and confusion.) With regard to the Game Laws, to which they were anxious he should come. (Hisses and cries of "Oh, the cutties.") He had been told by one of the electors, whose name he did not know—(cries of "Was it Geordie?")—but who sometimes addressed public meetings with much effect, that it was not one but all descriptions of game that they wished swept from the list—that it was not a part, but the whole, of these laws that they wished abolished. Now, he was not for having the whole Game Laws swept away. (Cries of "Na faith ye.") He thought a modification such as he proposed would prove perfectly satisfactory. ("Ye want hare soup to your dinner.") He was of opinion that, if the landlords would turn their attention in a good spirit to this matter, they would be able to do away with the heartburnings which subsisted between them and their tenants on this subject;—quite as much depended upon them as upon Legislative enactments. For himself, he was prepared to carry out on his own property, and amongst his own tenants, the principles he had professed. If he should have the honour to be returned as representative for this county, as he believed he should—"no, never"—he believed it though—if he was so returned, he should give his best attention to the altera-

tion of these laws. (Hisses, and cries of "Not abolition, though.") He had a word or two to say regarding the Excise Laws. His honourable seconder was a gentleman intimately connected with these laws—(cries of "Cheap whisky")—and well entitled from experience to speak of their obnoxious character. He (Mr Balfour) was perfectly satisfied that the demands of those parties who sought an amendment of these laws were reasonable and just, and they should have his support. All that was asked was, that those restrictions should be removed which interfered injuriously with the legitimate course of commerce, and were unnecessarily vexatious and inimical to the interests of the fair trader. As to the subject of taxation, to which they had wished him to refer, he thought that in reviewing, which he thought was indispensable, our whole system in this respect, we should proceed upon the principle of doing away with those taxes which pressed heaviest upon the poorer classes. The bulk of the taxes ought to be paid by those whose pecuniary means enabled them best to do so. (Cries of "Ay, that'll do.") The Property and Income-tax, he thought, would be renewed; and while it was the best and fairest way of raising the necessary funds for carrying on the Government, it would allow those customs and excise imposts to be abolished or reduced which shackled trade and pressed heavily upon the working classes. He would not much longer detain them. He did not know who were behind him, and he knew very few indeed of those who were before him; but he could assure them all, without respect of party, that he would do all he could, if returned, to further the interests of the community at large; and, in regard to this constituency in particular, he begged to say that he would ever be happy and ready, either in his public or private capacity, to exert himself to the utmost to serve all or any of them. He did not know what their fiat might be—he did not know what would be their decision in this contest—but whatever it was, it would in no respect alter, so far as he was concerned, the relation in which he would stand to any of those with whom he would have to come in contact in the course of his after life. The contest would leave in his mind no feeling of ill will to any one. Both by friends and foes—with one or two exceptions—(cries of "Auchtermuchty and Falkland")—he had been treated with the utmost courtesy and kindness, for which he begged to tender them his best thanks. He had already, at a great many places

in the county, explained his sentiments ; and he did not, therefore, deem it necessary to detain them longer now, but would conclude by hoping that, with their assistance, he should, on Tuesday, be found in the position to which he aspired. Mr Balfour retired amidst a torrent of hisses, mingled with a few faint cheers.

Mr Fergus then came forward to address the meeting, and was received with loud demonstrations of applause. He said he had often, in the course of his canvass, met them to explain his sentiments, and it was unnecessary to detain them with further explanations now. Those sentiments were known to them all—they were the same as those which he had espoused in his youth—which he had all his life held and professed—and to which he would continue to adhere. Mr Fergus then proceeded as follows :— I shall confine myself now to a few words upon the character of the contest itself. I have been called to my present position by unsolicited pledges of support from a very large proportion of the constituency—(cheers)—and the reception I have met with everywhere has satisfied me that my appearance as a candidate has met with the approbation of the great mass of the people of this county. (Loud cheers.) Whatever the result may be, I shall feel that I come forward in the discharge of a public duty, and I shall have the approbation of my own mind in the step I have taken. (Cheers.) The nature and character of the requisition which has called forward my respected opponent has not been made known. Its origin is even involved in some mystery ; but there is no mystery in the character of the support of which he has availed himself. I cannot suppose that that party who support him have changed their opinions when Mr Balfour changed his. Perhaps they may think that, in choosing between two Liberals, they take the least liberal ; but my opinion is, that they think more humbly of their candidate than I do, and that they judge that a man who has changed his opinions so entirely may, in his next oscillation, come back to their own ranks. (Hear, hear.) Be that as it may, the party we have now opposed to us are the same we have met in times past. They are the same army, although they have disguised themselves in some rags of our uniform. We have defeated them before, when they have placed themselves in opposition to the progress of just legislation, and I have no doubt we shall defeat them now. (Tremendous cheering.) They are the same party who have

opposed, in time past, the repeal of religious disabilities, the emancipation of slaves, and the freedom of industry. (Cheers.) They will oppose the repeal of the Game Laws, as they opposed the repeal of the Corn Laws—they will resist until resistance is hopeless, and they will submit when their submission has lost for themselves all the grace of concession, and has given us the triumph of victory. (Renewed cheering.) I know that the same success which has attended our efforts before awaits us now; but I feel that in one respect our success carries with it a consequence which I deeply lament. I feel that by intrenching themselves again in their class privileges, unjustly acquired, the landowners of this country are depriving themselves of the influence they ought to have from their position and general private virtues. (Cheers.) They are separating themselves from the great mass of the people—they are relinquishing the favour they ought to have, and which they would have if they would cast from them those petty advantages which they clutch so sternly—(cheers)—if, instead of resisting the progress of public opinion which they seek to stem with the little mops of their local influence, they would place themselves in a position to guide and direct that opinion. (Renewed cheering.) I have only one word more to say of myself. I acknowledge with gratitude that this contest has been conducted with courtesy to myself personally, and has been made as little disagreeable to me as possible. (Cheers.) I have never opened a county newspaper since the contest began. I know neither what has been said for me nor against me, and I probably never shall. In my progress through the county, however, I have been asked many questions, and I have heard some objections to me as a candidate, which I must shortly notice. (Hear.) It was told me that I had not time to discharge the duties of the office to which I aspired—that I had resigned my seat in Parliament formerly because it interfered with my private affairs. Now, I think that, if I did resign my place in Parliament from a conscientious conviction that I could not command time to discharge the duties fully, I may claim a presumption in my favour now that I should not seek to enter Parliament again unless I knew that I should be able to discharge the duties which attend that situation. (Loud cheers.) I might tell you that my habits had taught me to economise time. I might tell you that the man who has been engaged in the management of his own affairs is

not the less capable of taking charge of yours—(great cheering)—I might tell you that the man who has much to do, is generally the man who does it best—(cheers)—but I shall shelter myself under no such generalities. I shall say at once that, if I am elected to represent the county, I shall devote as much time to the business of the county as any man who has ever sat for it. (Loud applause.) I have been told also that I was reluctant and slow to come forward on this occasion. True it is, I was slow to believe that a man like me, who has never sought public life or courted popularity, should have gained to himself so large a share of the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens. (Loud cheers.) True it is, that I sought evidence of this, but, being once satisfied on this point, I think I have been neither reluctant nor slow to endeavour to recommend myself to the constituency—(cheers)—and there is no man between the two Friths that surround our beautiful county, who could value the honour of representing the county more highly, or who would be more deeply impressed with the solemn nature of the trust. (Great applause.) I have no more objections to notice. I was once told that it was necessary to keep the representation of Fife in the county blood. It is, perhaps, as well for me that I do not know the exact meaning of this, so that I do not feel the sharpness of the sting. But, perhaps, if the electors find in me the qualities of mind which fit me for the representation of the county, they will not look much further. (Cheers.) It may be said that if I had set myself down upon the estate I inherited from my fathers—if I had wrapped myself up in the prejudices of a class, and devoted myself to their amusements, I might have been less objectionable on this ground; but I think that, in that silent hour when men begin to look back and to reckon up what use they have made of the talents entrusted to them—when the turmoil and excitement of this election will be only a small speck in the horizon of the past—(loud cheers)—I shall have more satisfaction in the part I have taken in life, than by any other course I could have adopted. (Hear, hear.) I shall now take my leave of you. The candidates are both before you—weigh our merits in a balance, but hold it even—give your votes without fear or favour, insensible to intimidation and inaccessible to temptation—let every elector pledge himself to his own conscience, that he will form an unbiassed judgment between us—let him give his vote so

that, when he returns to his own home on the day of election, and lays his head upon his pillow, he may commune with his own heart, and say, I have given my vote this day with a single eye to the good of my country, as I shall answer to God. (Loud and continued cheering.)

Mr Thomson, Balcormo, begged to ask the Sheriff if he would be allowed to put a few questions to the candidates?

After some little delay, the Sheriff said he believed it was perfectly competent for questions to be put to the candidates, and begged the assembly, which was at this time very much disturbed, to be quiet, and listen patiently to the proceedings.

Mr Thomson then, addressing Mr Balfour, asked if he believed the people of this country were less intelligent than those of England?

Mr Balfour—Certainly not.

Mr Thomson—Very well. There has long existed in England what are called forty-shilling freeholds; would you support a measure to place the people of Scotland on the same footing as those of England in this respect?

Mr Balfour—I think the franchise is already far enough extended, and I am not inclined to extend it farther just now.

Mr Thomson—The electors will, of course, in many cases, be driven to the poll like cattle to the market; and as this is an unseemly thing, would Mr Balfour support a measure to put a stop to all canvassing and influencing of electors; leaving the candidates, of course, to write and speak as much as they please, but putting a complete stop to canvassing by agents and others?

Mr Balfour—If canvassing is stopped on both sides, I have no objection. We would then start fair; but if one side canvass, then it is right that both should. (Disapprobation.)

Mr Thomson—That will not do; we are not talking of a horse-race, and have nothing to do with starting fair. Would you support a measure to put a final and entire stop to canvassing?

Mr Balfour—I have no idea that any such measure will be proposed, and, therefore, cannot say anything about it.

Mr Thomson—Would you propose it?

Mr Balfour—I would not.

Mr Thomson—Oh, very well, you would not. As to

the Game Laws, I have a question or two to ask. Do you know how many commitments there are annually in England for infringements of these laws?

Mr Balfour—I believe there are a great many, though I do not know the exact number. It would perhaps take a good deal of trouble to ascertain it.

Mr Thomson—Do you believe that there is annually £40,000 of the public money spent upon prosecutions for game-law offences?

Mr Balfour—I do not know, but I am quite willing to believe it if you say so. (Laughter.)

Mr Thomson—Would you support Mr Bright's proposal for abolishing the Game Laws?

Mr Balfour—No.

Mr Thomson—Would you resist all additional endowments to all religious denominations?

Mr Balfour—Yes.

Mr Thomson—I suppose you think every man should be allowed to worship his Creator according to the dictates of his own conscience?

Mr Balfour—I do.

Mr Thomson—Then would you support a measure to abolish all religious tests for professorships in universities?

Mr Balfour—I don't wish to pledge myself on this subject—(cries of "You're awfu' ill at pledging")—but if any proposal is brought before Parliament, I will, if returned, give it my best consideration.

Mr Thomson—Would you support a measure to render Dissenters eligible to hold the office of parochial schoolmaster?

Mr Balfour—No; so long as the parochial schools continue in connexion with the Established Church, I think the teachers in them ought also to be connected with the Established Church.

Mr Thomson—You say in your address that you regard the abolition of the Corn Laws as a wise and salutary measure. I suppose you also regard the resolution which you moved in February 1844 as nonsense?

Mr Balfour—As to that, I beg to say that I am now of opinion that the views which I then held on this subject are not such as it would be wise, or salutary for the interests of this country, to adhere to. (Hear, hear, and cries of "You've changed, then.")

Mr Thomson—Are the principles of Cobden and the other leaders of the League on commercial policy such as you fully approve of, and would wish to see carried out?



Mr Balfour—I think those principles should be carried out as far as is consistent with the good of the country.

The Sheriff then proceeded to take a show of hands for the respective candidates, when from 30 to 40 were held up for Mr Balfour, while, amidst tremendous cheering, almost the entire assemblage responded to the call for Mr Fergus. When the cheering had somewhat subsided, the Sheriff said—The show is decidedly in favour of Mr Fergus—(great applause)—but as a poll has been demanded on the part of Mr Balfour—(hisses)—I shall now adjourn the proceedings. The polling will take place on Monday and Tuesday, commencing at nine a.m. on Monday, and on Tuesday at eight, and closing each evening at four o'clock. The result will be announced by me at this place on Thursday next, at one o'clock.

Mr Balfour then moved a vote of thanks to the Sheriff for the manner in which he had conducted the proceedings; which, having been seconded by Mr Fergus, was carried by acclamation.

The Sheriff returned thanks for the honour done him, and hoped that, in carrying on this contest to a close, the electors of Fife would maintain the high character for peaceful, sober, and orderly behaviour which they had always hitherto deserved.

The meeting then broke up. On leaving the hustings, Mr Fergus was accompanied and loudly cheered by a large portion of the assembly, while Mr Balfour walked away, accompanied by Sir Ralph Anstruther and a few female friends, but altogether unnoticed by the public generally. A great number of people, accompanied by the bands, and bearing flags, afterwards walked in procession through the town.

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The publication of the Requisition in favour of Mr Fergus called forth the following curious and contradictory Advertisements:—

#### COUNTY ELECTION.

WE, the undersigned, never authorised our names to be put by any person to the Requisition for Mr Fergus to stand for the County. We are pledged to no one.

JOHN BOUSIE.

JOHN KYLES.

ANDREW BAXTER.

JOHN BURT.

JAMES WHITE.

East Wemyss, July 22, 1847.

#### COUNTY ELECTION.

WE are surprised to see our names appended to an Adver-

tisement in the *Fifeshire Journal* of 29th ultimo, dated "East Wemyss, July 22, 1847," headed "COUNTY ELECTION," which appears as if it had issued from us, or with our knowledge and consent.

If this advertisement has any reference to a document which was brought to us by Captain Wemyss' Farm-Grieve on Saturday 24th ultimo, and which, we believe, was in Captain Wemyss' handwriting, we beg to say that the statement in the Advertisement is quite at variance with the sentiments we expressed to the Grieve; and if the Advertisement had been a *lithographed copy of the writing*, and stated exactly in the form in which it was signed by us, it would have conveyed a very different meaning.

We expressly mentioned to Captain Wemyss' Farm-Grieve that *we had given our full consent* that our names should be added to the requisition for Mr Fergus to stand for the County. (Signed) ANDREW BAXTER. JAMES WHITE.

JOHN BOUSIE. JOHN BURT.  
JOHN KYLES.

East Wemyss, Aug. 2, 1847.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE FIFE HERALD.

SIR,

Colinsburgh, 20th July 1847.

As one of those who signed the Requisition to Mr Fergus of Strathore to come forward as a Candidate for this County, I take the liberty of stating, through the medium of your journal, that I did so, in consequence of a representation having been made to me that the contest lay between him and Captain Wemyss, and that I reserved to myself full power to vote for any other Candidate who might be more agreeable to me than either.

As it is now my intention to support Mr Balfour, I consider it as only due to my own consistency to make this short explanation, although most unwilling to intrude on the public the concerns of so humble an individual as myself.—I am, &c.

THOMAS CARSTAIRS.

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The appearance of Mr Deas at Mr Balfour's meeting with the Electors in the Guild Hall, Cupar, was animadverted on by the *Fife Herald*; and the article in that paper, in reference to the meeting in question, called forth the following letter from Mr Deas. We will not here either defend the *Herald* or Mr Deas, nor would we have referred to the matter at all, but for the purpose of giv-

ing a place to a document which could not well be omitted. This letter, we should observe, was widely circulated by Mr Balfour's agents, so they can have no objections to our giving it a permanent place in our Election *memorabilia* :—

Edinburgh, 5th August 1847.

DEAR SIR,—I request you will be good enough to cause the *Fife Herald*, to which I have been a subscriber for the last 15 years, to be no longer sent to me. I cannot continue to take a newspaper in which, while performing an important constitutional duty as an independent elector, I am represented to be acting as “the paid agent” of a particular candidate, or of some friend of that candidate.

It is degrading even to be obliged to answer such a charge. But, since it has been made, I think it right to say, in the plainest words I can use, that *it is utterly false*, and has not even the shadow of a foundation in truth, any more than in probability, to excuse its having been made.

If your Editor does not know that it would have been inconsistent with professional propriety and etiquette for me to have assumed the garb of an elector while acting as a retained counsel, he might, at least, be expected to know that it would be both inconsistent and absurd to suppose that I should act in the manner he insinuates, for the purpose of aiding a candidate whom I believed likely to be instrumental in turning out the Government with which I have the honour to be connected.

My interest as well as my duty, and the liberal principles I have all my life advocated, are equally opposed to such a supposition. Neither Mr Balfour nor any friend of his asked me to attend his meeting at Cupar—nor knew that I would attend—nor what questions (if any) I would put to him, until I actually went there, which I did solely to satisfy myself, and the Liberal electors generally, whether Mr Balfour's principles were such as we could rely upon and support. I did then, and I do now, declare myself fully satisfied on this point; and I entertain no doubt whatever that the honourable gentleman, if elected, will do as he says, namely, give a fair and straightforward support to Lord John Russell's Government, and aid, to the best of his ability, in carrying out the principles avowed by that Government.

To suppose anything else would be to suppose that a gentleman of spotless honor and integrity is now, for the

first time in his life, acting contrary to all honor and integrity, in avowing sentiments and intentions which there was no reason why he should profess unless he entertained them.

I cannot take that view of the matter. I have every assurance that a man can have that Mr Balfour, so far as regards his political principles and honest intentions, is a proper candidate to be supported by such of the Liberal party as think him, on other grounds, deserving of their support. It is gratifying to have *two* Liberal candidates in the field to choose between. And it would be hard indeed if, after fighting the battles of the Reform party in Fife from 1832 downwards, I could not honestly state my opinion, without being subjected to the imputation of acting from motives which it is impossible for me not to despise.

I have acted from *one* motive and *one only*—a desire to do the best I can for the Liberal cause, which I believe to be interwoven with the best interests of the country, and which is not to be served by driving from us those who are truly friends by dogmatically declaring them to be enemies.

I trust you will do me the justice to cause this letter to be inserted in the next number of your newspaper, although the day of its publication falls after the election—a circumstance which I hope was not in the view of your Editor when he sent forth his reckless accusation, in place of first asking me, as he might have done, the simple question whether it was true.—I am, &c.

GEO. DEAS.

George S. Tullis, Esq.,  
Proprietor of the *Fife Herald*.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE FIFE HERALD.

SIR,—I have just learned that Mr Balfour, while addressing the county electors at Kirkaldy on Saturday last, was asked if he had, directly or indirectly, treated me in such a manner, in consequence of my adherence to the Free Church, as had virtually obliged me to leave his school at Balbirnie. Mr Balfour's reply was in the negative, and he added that I had left the school of my own accord, for reasons still unknown to him.

In justice to myself, I beg leave, through the medium of your journal, to give a simple statement of the facts which passed betwixt Mr Balfour and myself on this matter, leaving a discerning public to judge for themselves.

At the time of the disruption, I deemed it my duty to adhere to the Free Church. About eight or nine months after, I received intimation from the factor that Mr Balfour required the school and school-house at Whitsunday term. I immediately wrote to Mr Balfour asking an explanation of his reasons for parting with me, and a certificate for the time I had taught. In reply, Mr Balfour stated his willingness to grant the certificate, and, at the same time, to give reasons for my dismissal. On calling, Mr Balfour gave me a certificate, and mentioned that he considered it his duty to have a teacher in his school who would attend the Established Church. "You will recollect," said Mr Balfour, addressing me, "that you was a member of that Church when you was appointed to the school, and it is always understood that the teacher should attend the Established Church. I have no other reason (said he) for parting with you, and am sorry to do so. I have been thus long in interfering with you, because I did not wish to do anything rashly; and you will have a short time to look out for another situation before you require to leave."

Such, Mr Editor, is in substance what passed betwixt Mr Balfour and myself in relation to this affair. Immediately on its being known that my services would be no longer required by Mr Balfour, an interest was taken in my case by my friends in Markinch and neighbourhood, when I was asked to take charge of a school which was forming in Markinch, when I resigned my situation into the hands of Mr Balfour. I have no doubt but Mr Balfour thought at the time he acted rightly in ejecting me, but he should have, at least, the manliness and honesty to avow it.—I am, &c.

ROBERT DARGIE.

Markinch, 3d August 1847.

### THE POLLING.

The contest for the representation of the county of Fife in Parliament continued to deepen in interest as the time for deciding it approached. After the nomination on Friday the 6th, the greatest enthusiasm prevailed on the one side, opposed by the most indefatigable exertion on the other. During the whole of Saturday, Mr Balfour's canvassers were unceasing in their efforts—every engine was put in motion—very influence used—every nerve strained. In fact, so arduous were their labours, that "even Sunday

was no Sabbath day to them"—the greater part of it having been spent in making preparations for Monday's struggle. With the dawn of that eventful day, and even before it, both parties were astir. Messengers were seen flying in all directions—carriages, gigs, phaetons—every description of vehicle—many of which, like the good woman's Bible, looked as though they had not been exposed either to sun or wind for a dozen years—were dispatched in every direction to bring up the supporters of the respective candidates early to the poll. It was evident that a most desperate effort was being made by Mr Balfour's party to get the start, in which they partially succeeded. The announcements up to 12 o'clock gave Mr Balfour a majority in all the districts except Kirkaldy and Dunfermline, from neither of which any information had, up to that time, been received. This unexpected success raised the spirits of his party in a most exuberant degree, while those of some of Mr Fergus's friends were correspondingly depressed. A change, however, very soon "came o'er the spirit of the dream." About 1 o'clock, a report was received from Auchtermuchty, which, instead of placing Mr Fergus in a considerable minority there, as the previous accounts had done, gave him a clear majority of 8 over his opponent. This gratifying announcement was speedily followed up by the arrival, at 2 o'clock, of Mr Fergus himself, bringing the welcome intelligence of his having an overwhelming majority both at Kirkaldy and Dunfermline—at the former 120, and at the latter 72. Mr Fergus, who was received with the greatest enthusiasm, briefly addressed the assembled multitude, informing them of the true state of affairs—an announcement which was received with deafening applause. The band immediately turned out—flags were procured, and a procession formed, which paraded the streets for about an hour. On the altered state of things being made public, the visages of Mr Balfour's supporters became vastly elongated, and though they slackened none in their efforts, their countenances no longer wore the look of exultant triumph which had characterised them in the earlier part of the day. From this time up till the close of the poll at 4 o'clock, the interest of the public, and the exertions of both parties, continued unabated, though with slight change in their relative positions. A considerable crowd, eager for intelligence, awaited the arrival of the messengers from the several polling stations with the closing figures, the announcements of which were received with expressions of

satisfaction or disapprobation, according as they were favourable or otherwise for the popular candidate, Mr Fergus. When the accounts from all the stations had been received, it was found that the day's polling gave the following results :—

	FERGUS.	BALFOUR.
Cupar .....	78	131
Auchtermuchty.....	118	99
St. Andrews.....	51	126
Elie.....	72	93
Kirkaldy.....	247	76
Dunfermline.....	145	81
Gross Poll .....	711	606
	606	

Majority for Fergus... 105

This, although a good majority, did not altogether extinguish the hopes of Mr Balfour's party; and, accordingly, the night was spent in *beating-up*. Every part of the county was ransacked for unpolled voters, and wherever one was found, no efforts were spared to secure him. That these efforts, although insufficient to alter the fate of the election, were not altogether without effect, will be seen from the following return of the state of the poll at the close on Tuesday :—

	FERGUS.	BALFOUR.
Cupar.....	88	159
Auchtermuchty .....	133	119
St. Andrews.....	64	165
Elie.....	86	114
Kirkaldy.....	280	98
Dunfermline .....	183	113
Gross Poll .....	834	768
	768	

Majority for Fergus..... 66

Perhaps the estimation in which the two candidates were held could not be better illustrated than by the fact that while, as above stated, Mr Fergus was received with the greatest enthusiasm, Mr Balfour, who also visited Cupar in the course of Monday, came and went altogether unnoticed, not above a dozen individuals, we believe, beyond his own committee, being at all aware of his presence.

#### ANALYSIS OF THE POLL.

Subjoined is a Table showing the numbers polled for the two candidates in the respective parishes, from which it will be seen that Mr Fergus had a majority of votes in 25, and Mr Balfour in 32 parishes.

Names of Parishes.		Voted for		Majority for	
		Fergus.	Balfour.	Fergus.	Balfour.
I.—CUPAR DISTRICT.	Balmerino.....	3	10	...	7
	Ceres.....	30	38	...	8
	Cultra.....	8	14	...	6
	Cupar.....	8	20	...	12
	Dairsie.....	4	10	...	6
	Kemback.....	3	11	...	8
	Kettle.....	17	25	...	8
	Kilmany.....	7	11	...	4
	Logie.....	6	6	...	...
	Monimail.....	1	13	...	12
	Moonzie.....	1	1	...	...
	Cameron.....	8	24	...	16
	Crail.....	3	22	...	19
	Denino.....	5	3	2	...
	Ferry-Port-on-Craig.....	15	12	3	...
	Forgan.....	7	13	...	6
	Kingsbarns.....	...	24	...	24
	Leuchars.....	10	32	...	22
	St. Andrews.....	16	34	...	18
	St. Leonards.....	...	1	...	1
II.—ST. ANDREWS DISTRICT.	Abbotshall.....	11	3	8	...
	Auchtertool.....	1	4	...	3
	Auchterderran.....	32	11	21	...
	Ballingry.....	8	7	1	...
	Burntisland.....	10	2	8	...
	Dysart.....	4	7	...	3
	Kennoway.....	13	10	3	...
	Kinghorn.....	11	5	6	...
	Kinglassie.....	25	3	22	...
	Kirkaldy.....	6	4	2	...
	Leslie.....	55	6	49	...
	Markinch.....	55	32	23	...
III.—KIRKALDY DISTRICT.	Wemyss.....	49	4	45	...
	Abdie.....	5	6	...	1
	Abernethy.....	1	...	1	...
	Arngask.....	3	3	...	...
	Auchtermuchty.....	28	24	4	...
	Collessie.....	12	8	4	...
	Creich.....	5	5	...	...
	Denbog.....	1	4	...	3
	Falkland.....	18	29	...	11
	Fliak.....	4	2	2	...
	Newburgh.....	45	23	22	...
	Strathmiglo.....	11	15	...	4
IV.—AUCHTERMUCHTY DISTRICT.	Anstruther Wester.....	...	1	...	1
	Carnbee.....	10	15	...	5
	Elie.....	7	9	...	2
	Kilconquhar.....	14	31	...	17
	Kilrenny.....	2	11	...	9
	Largo.....	15	22	...	7
	Newburn.....	3	9	...	6
	St. Monance.....	3	4	...	1
	Seconie.....	32	12	20	...
	Aberdour.....	11	12	...	1
	Beath.....	13	6	7	...
	Carnock.....	40	13	27	...
V.—ELIE DISTRICT.	Dalgety.....	4	9	...	5
	Dunfermline.....	64	43	21	...
	Inverkeithing.....	11	4	7	...
	Saline.....	19	15	4	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
VI.—DUNFERMLINE DISTRICT.	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
	Torryburn.....	21	11	10	...
Total.....		834	768	322	256



## DECLARATION OF THE POLL.

*(From the Fife Herald of 19th August 1847.)*

At an early hour on Thursday, 12th August, the streets of Cupar presented a very animated appearance. Bands of music came pouring in from all quarters, and flags, with appropriate devices, were carried along the streets.

Mr Fergus entered Cupar about 12 o'clock, and was received by the hearty plaudits of the crowd who surrounded his carriage. He was preceded in his way to M'Nab's by bands of music belonging to the following places:—Cupar, Falkland, Strathmiglo, Auchtermuchty, Leslie, and Pitlessie.

At one o'clock, Mr Fergus appeared on the hustings, amidst enthusiastic applause, accompanied by Mr Kinnear of Kinloch, Mr Carswell of Rathillet, Mr Arnott of Chapel, Mr Wilson, Glassmont, Sir David Brewster, Dr Craig of Leslie, Mr Macfarlane, Dunfermline, Captain Peat, Leslie, Mr George Anderson, banker, Kirkaldy, Mr Drinkwater Bethune, and a great number of other gentlemen. Immediately after, Mr Balfour, followed by the hootings and groans of the crowd, ascended the hustings, along with Mr Bousie, writer, St. Andrews, Mr Fernie of Kilmux, Captain Oswald of Dunikier, Mr Johnston of Kirkforthar, Mr Rigg, yr. of Tarvit, &c.

The Sheriff shortly afterwards appeared, and announced the election of Mr Fergus as follows:—Electors, it now becomes my duty to announce the state of the poll. Taking the aggregate of the numbers in the different polling districts, the numbers for Mr Balfour are 767, and for Mr Fergus, 833, leaving a majority of 66 for Mr Fergus, (Loud applause.) It is therefore my duty now to declare that Mr Fergus is the representative of this county in the ensuing Parliament. (Continued applause.)

Mr Fergus then came forward, and, after the cheering with which he was greeted had somewhat subsided, said—Gentlemen, it now only remains for me to return you my thanks for the distinguished confidence you have placed in me, and to congratulate you on the result and success of your exertions on this occasion. (Loud applause.) To the people of this country at large, it is a great triumph of political opinion—to the constituency of this county, it is a triumph of political independence. (Loud applause.) Gentlemen, we have been called upon to assert our principles under circumstances very adverse to us in many re-

spects. (Hear, hear.) My respected opponent has had, in the first place, all the support he could derive from the profession of Liberal opinions; he has had, in the next place, all the support that he could derive from the local influence of Conservatives. (Cheers.) He has had on his side all the advantages of an extensive and powerful local agency—he has had on his side, as chairman of a great railway company, all the advantages he could derive from the undeveloped patronage of that company. (Loud cries of “hear, hear.”) In spite of this influence, we have triumphed, with nothing on our side, but bold, honest, and honourable principle. Trusting to the constituency of this county alone, I now stand before you as its representative. (Loud applause, and a voice—“Fife never had the like before.”) If I rejoice at anything in this contest, it is that I have not hobbled into Parliament on any of the rotten crutches to which my opponent has trusted. (Continued cheers.) I think I have gained for myself a more independent seat. I think I have treated the constituency of the county with more deference. I have asked for nothing but this—that you should judge between us—and I have placed myself on my own merits and your esteem; and I can now say that the seat I now possess is a prouder seat to me than if it had been bought with all the gold in the world. (Loud and long continued applause.) You have sent me to Parliament to add the voice of this constituency to that great concert of mighty voices that have been already raised in England, in favour of the great principles of Free Trade—principles that have already been vindicated by the return to Parliament of Mr Cobden by the greatest constituency in England, the West Riding of Yorkshire; and I believe that is only one instance of many in which the like honour will be conferred upon those who have been the leaders of that great confederacy, which, by spreading information among the people, and exciting public opinion, was the means of carrying the repeal of the Corn Laws. There is not, I believe, one of that aristocracy of talent and virtue, the League leaders, who has not been returned by some large constituency in England. It is a still greater triumph of these principles, that there has not been in Scotland a single candidate who has ventured to offer himself to any constituency who has not, at least, put on the cloak of Free Trade principles. (Cries of “Hear, hear,” and applause.) And, gentlemen, I do believe that, bearing with me the stamp of your authority to these great principles, there is not one who will sit in the House of

Commons who, however humble he may be himself, will carry with him a testimony in favour of those opinions of greater weight or greater importance. The triumph of these principles of free trade has taught us one great lesson : it has taught us that, independent of constitutional reform, independent of any changes in the government of the country, or in the elective franchise, there does exist with the people of this country the means of obtaining for themselves just and equal laws, by the strength of the direct influence which is now exercised by public opinion on the acts of public men. (Loud cheers.) To this influence in all your proceedings I advise you to trust—look only to one thing—make sure only of one thing—be sure that you have justice on your side in what you ask ; and be assured that, from any Government in this country, there is nothing that you may ask, with public opinion on your side, but you will ultimately obtain. (Great applause.) Before taking leave of you, I have only a few words more to say. I have endeavoured myself to carry on the contest as if I had no opponent in it. I have never, except on the hustings here, alluded, in any respect, either to Mr Balfour or to his opinions. I hold Mr Balfour himself to be an honourable and an excellent gentleman ; and I have never, in any way, either directly or indirectly, alluded to him except in his presence. I have to say one word to Mr Balfour's supporters. I do not ask them to give up any part of their political opinions. There is no man who respects any one more than I do for an independent assertion of his political opinions. I will not ask them to forget this contest when we come to gird ourselves up for another contest—(cheers)—but I will ask them not to exclude from me such a measure of their confidence as will enable me discharge usefully the duties which I have undertaken. (Loud and long continued applause.) And this I am sure I will not ask in vain, for I will say that, however much we may differ as to our political opinions—however much I may differ with them in the view I take even of the true interests of the class to which they belong—I will say this, that there is not a more honourable, or esteemed, or high-spirited set of men than the landed proprietors of this county. I now take my leave. I have always considered it the highest position that any man could obtain that he enjoyed the respect and esteem of his fellow-men ; and I can assure you of this, that, even though

I had been unsuccessful in this contest, I should have looked back on the period of its progress as one of the most agreeable and most flattering epochs of my life; for I can never forget the kind feeling that has been evinced for me in every part of this great county. (The Hon. Member concluded amidst vehement applause.)

Mr Balfour then came forward, and was received with hisses, mingled with some few cheers. He said—Gentlemen, I appear here this day because I deem it the most becoming thing for me to do in reference to those gentlemen of this constituency who have honoured me with their support. I do not pretend to say on what grounds they have so given me their support—(“I daresay no,”—“Promises”—and hisses)—but I do most emphatically declare that I never have, directly or indirectly, used any of that patronage which I possess, or which people fancy I possess—(great confusion, hisses, and slight cheering)—for the purpose of obtaining one single vote in my favour. (Cries of “Low in Leslie.”) I have to thank those gentlemen for the support they have given me, and to hope that they will never have occasion to regret it. As to those who have supported my honourable opponent, they had a perfect conscientious right to do so, and no ill-will shall ever be borne towards any of them by me in connexion with this matter. (Cheers, and cries of “What about the cutties th’ day”?) I am glad that, in the course of his present speech, my honourable opponent has said something in favour of my supporters. The only thing I have to regret in this contest are the expressions, in regard to my supporters, which my respected opponent made use of on Friday last. I take leave to say that, in whatever uniform they may appear, whatever principles they may profess, their hearts are actuated by as sincere a desire to promote the welfare and interests of all classes of the community as are those of the supporters of my honourable friend. (Hisses, and “It’ll no’ do that.”) I trust that the expression of hope as to countenance and support in the discharge of his duties as your representative, to which my honourable friend has given utterance, will not be disappointed. For myself, I will bear no ill-will to him; and I believe that had he known that he was to have occupied the position he now does, he would have spared the remarks to which I have alluded, and have let others alone. (A voice—“Why do ye no’ let them alane”?) I shall never allude to them again; and any influence I possess in the county

shall be exercised in supporting him in the discharge of his duties, and in aiding him in carrying on the public business of the country, and in furthering the local interests of this great county. (Hear and cheers.) In this I hope—nay, I am sure—I shall be joined by my friends; and we shall spare no effort to wipe away all feelings of irritation and ill-will which may have been excited in the course of this contest. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, I now take leave of you. In so far as my ability and position enable me, I shall give my best attention to the business, and do all I can to further the interests, of the county in which I have so great a stake. I have to thank those of my supporters who have attended here to-day, as well as the many who have tendered to me the right hand of fellowship in this contest—a contest from which I retire defeated, certainly, but neither dishonoured nor dis—dis—(suggested by a friend behind)—nor disheartened. (Mr Balfour retired amid mingled hisses and cheers.)

The Sheriff having declared the proceedings closed,

Mr Fergus said he begged to move a vote of thanks to their worthy Sheriff for the admirable way in which he had conducted himself on that as well as upon every other occasion on which he was called on to discharge the public functions of his office; which, having been seconded by Mr Balfour, was given by acclamation.

The Sheriff begged to return his best thanks for the honour done him, and to congratulate the County of Fife on the admirable manner in which the proceedings in this contest had been conducted. While discharging the duties of chief magistrate of the county, he never had had occasion to find fault, in this district at least, with the manner in which the public peace was preserved. Disturbance had been apprehended at one place in the county, but he had himself been present there during the whole of the polling, and he never saw better or more orderly conduct than had distinguished the people of that district. He would remind the electors that the best security they could have for the constitutional exercise of the franchise, was to leave the right of private judgment unimpaired and uninterfered with.

The meeting then separated, the bands struck up, and the procession again moved off.

Immediately on the proceedings on the hustings being concluded, the "chairing" of the new member took place. The procession paraded the principal streets of the town,

and, after returning to M'Nab's Inn, the assembled multitude greeted Mr Fergus, as he was about to descend from his carriage, with loud and long repeated cheering. Mr Fergus, in a few words, addressed the vast crowd that surrounded him. He said, after thanking them for the honour they had done him, that he felt assured that he had the good wishes of the great body of the people, including electors and non-electors; and he assured them that his best exertions would ever be used to promote the public good. We have great pleasure in stating that the whole proceedings were conducted in the most orderly way, and that the compliments paid by Sheriff Monteith, in reference to this district, were justly merited.

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Thus ended this keen contest. It would be invidious now to revive aught of that rancorous feeling which electioneering struggles seldom fail to engender, by any needless commentary on the conduct of certain of the subordinate actors in the scene. In narrating the facts which we have now laid before the reader, we have avoided as much as possible any needless comment, contenting ourselves with making the *dramatis personæ* chiefly speak for themselves. The manœuvres, to call them by no harsher name, which certain parties were foolish enough to indulge in, and which are here recorded, require, we think, no further exposition than the bare recital of them. To every intelligent reader, they will readily suggest suitable reflections, and they will not fail to inculcate the wholesome lesson that, in political transactions, as in general morals, "honesty is the best policy." The exhibition of such vacillating conduct as we allude to will, in any future contest, have the good effect of warning those who would indulge in it of the risk they run of endangering their political existence. There is nothing which an enlightened and independent constituency will sooner resist and oppose with honest indignation and scorn, than any attempt to entrap and school them, by specious chicanery, into the adoption of principles glossed over for the nonce to serve the purpose of political partisanship, but having no regard to the general weal. The detection of anything of this sort, we say, is sure to end in the political prostration of the unhappy wight who so far forgets himself as to indulge in it.

There is one topic, which we cannot close our remarks without, for a moment, referring to, and, in

doing so, we beg to say that we mean to make no reflections on the conduct of the gentlemen we allude to, nor of the mode in which they conducted the election. We wish to speak of the matter abstractly, and apart altogether from any personal allusions. We mean the practice of employing bankers as election agents. The two principal agents which Mr Balfour secured in Cupar, possessed singular advantages. The influence they possessed, as men of large general business, was greatly strengthened by the circumstance of those agents being of opposite politics. They thus enjoyed a wider range among the electors than they could otherwise have done. If any voter got through the meshes of the net which the Liberal party had spread out for him, he was pretty sure to be caught in the snares of Conservatism. It was anomalous enough, certainly, to find agents of such opposite politics fighting on the same side, although the circumstance gave no bad index of the indecided and somewhat mongrel character of their candidate's political creed. It is, however, of the fact of both these agents being bank agents that we would more particularly speak. In this position we think they exercised, tacitly it may be, an influence which we think no electioneering agent should be allowed to do. We do not say that any threat, or any promise of indulgence, was in any one case held out to any of the voters; but this we contend, that there are too many voters, at all times, not in a very favourable position for resisting any favour which their bankers may solicit from them. That the freedom of the electors is thus interfered with, we think no one will venture to dispute; and the injustice of this monetary influence is the greater, from the fact that it must often happen that agents, acting as political partisans, must, in using it, be often opposing the political views of the partners of their bank.

We ought not to conclude our remarks without bearing testimony to the gentlemanly manner in which the contest was conducted on both sides by the candidates themselves. Their bearing to each other was, throughout, such as became men holding the high position they both do.







